Trans Heroes Coloring Book

Illustrations by the wonderful, amazingly talented Emmett Stone <3

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Bamby Salcedo grew up in Guadalajara, Mexico and is currently living in Los Angeles, CA. The numerous challenges she faced in Mexico and then the US caused her to be affected by drug use. After many confrontations with death, Bamby was able to fight her addiction and she used that energy to uncover the systemic root causes of why she was affected by drug use and started to help others improve their quality of life. Bamby has since committed her life to advocacy and coalition building work. She has founded organizations and formed coalitions locally, nationally, and internationally to bring to light the intersections of race, gender, sexuality, age, social class, HIV+ status, immigration status, and more. In bringing these intersectional identities to light, Bamby hones in on the oppressive justice, healthcare, social services, incarceration, immigration, and detention systems that cause the inhumane obstacles that many trans people face.

Bamby is probably most known for founding the TransLatin@ Coalition (TLC) in 2009. TLC is an organization that consists of and fights for Trans Latina Immigrant Women across the US. They advocate for laws that protect and provide healthcare and social/cultural inclusion for their community. In 2013, TLC released a documentary called “Dying to Be a Woman” (Morir por Ser Mujer), which discusses health issues around silicone injection for trans women who do not have access to safe Gender Affirmative Surgery. TLC has also published a research project titled “TransVisible,” which confronts why Trans Latina Immigrant Women are “invisible” in funding and policy decisions.

Another incredible program that Bamby initiated was Angles of Change, which helps TGNC youth to build their confidence within themselves. To do so, they produce a yearly calendar (the world’s first calendar featuring TGNC youth). To start building their self-esteem, they put on a runway show, which allows the youth to gain experience in cooperation, to feel like they belong, and to provide an opportunity to see their authentic selves in the future.

To learn more about this amazing #TransHero visit her website, bambysalcedo.com, or watch her documentary, “TransVisible: Bamby Salcedo’s Story,” filmed by Dante Alencastre. Also be sure to check out TLC’s website, TransLatinaCoalition.org, to learn more about what they’re up to!
CJ Run is a rapper/singer-songwriter and guitarist who was born on January 26th, 1998 in Munich, Germany to West African parents. At the age of eight, they and their parents moved to Northampton, England, and then at age thirteen, they moved to a small town in North Carolina, US. Their family is originally from Nigeria, so as a queer Nigerian who embodies so many more identities, such as being non-binary, being a Black person who speaks German, and being second-gen African-European, CJ feels the importance of telling those stories that are not well represented in music. Even in Mainstream Black music and Blackness, CJ highlights that it is mainly American, which makes it falsely seem like Blackness is monolithic. On the other hand, they ponder the interesting reality that the pressure to represent gets put onto many folx who are part of a marginalized community. In an interview with Alyssa Klein from *We Have Stories*, CJ states:

“[Creating music is] really just me having fun, and doing what I want. It’s very interesting navigating that space of just doing this because I want to be a musician, and because of all these social identifiers I have, having to be representation, and having to put on for people like me at the same time” (2018).

CJ is currently based in Chicago, IL. They have released three EPs and numerous singles and freestyles. Their most popular song on Spotify is “Spaghetti” (ft. Danielle Elvira) from their 2016 album *ForgetMeNot*, followed by “Cruise Control,” “Tangerine,” “Mercury,” and “Aquafina.” I (AJ) love all of CJ’s songs, but “The Ascent” has a special place in my heart since it’s the first song I was exposed to that explicitly rapped about they/them pronouns along with their newer song “Psych.” Also, def make sure to check out their other singles like “Nothing Like You” with fire lines like, “Pretty young boi with the cranberry vodka; Cause I gotta watch them UTI’s; What you don't know don't hurt.”

You can follow CJ Run via Facebook or Instagram and make sure to check out their music! Also, if you want to listen to the rest of their interview with Alyssa Klein, you can do so at https://wehavestories.org/storyteller-spotlight/cj-run.
Jess X Snow is an Asian-Canadian film director, artist, cinematographer, and poet. Their parents migrated from Nanchang, China after the Cultural Revolution to Canada where they had Jess in 1992. Jess currently lives on Lenapehoking land (colonized name: Brooklyn, NY). Their work primarily focuses on migrant rights, queer liberation, transformative justice, and abolition. They also provide lectures and workshops at high schools and colleges across the US. In an interview with PBS reporter Judy Woodruff, Jess discusses the inspiration of their work from the idea that migration is natural:

“I just think a border drawn upon the earth’s skin is extremely unnatural. And when people’s families and lives are policed by borders, the result is that young immigrants grow up feeling like their identities are divided and they have to give up, like, their homelands, they have to give up their connections to their families” (2017).

When Jess started playing around with different artistic mediums, they discovered that art was a way for them to give voice to their family’s ancestry, which had previously been suppressed due to the fear of government censorship. Furthermore, growing up Jess struggled with a stutter which also contributed towards needing to find creative ways to overcome it and tell their own story. Another creative outlet that helped them do so was through a community of poets of color they became a part of in college. During their first time sharing their poetry on stage, they also stopped stuttering for the first time.

Many of Jess’ poems may be found on their website, JessXSnow.com, including “Queer Earth,” which was published in the journal Nat. Brut, and “The Last Words Of The Honey Bees,” which was published in Nepantla: An Anthology Dedicated to Queer Poets of Color. Also, keep an eye out for their short films, "Little Sky / 小天“ (in post production) and “Breathlessness / 屏息“ (currently working on)! In the meantime, you can check out their already released films Afterearth and Safe Among Stars. To stay up to date on their incredible work, you can also follow Jess X Snow on Facebook and Instagram. And you seriously gotta peep their murals! They. Are. Breathtaking.
Isa Noyola was born on July 22nd, 1978 in Houston, TX, but grew up in California. Her ancestral roots come from Comitán, Chiapas and San Luis Potosí, Mexico. Isa identifies as a translatina, two-spirit, queer, jota, muxerista, cultural organizer and activist. She is known as an LGBT immigrant rights organizer on a national level, as her work is committed to releasing transgender women from ICE detention and ending deportations. Her commitment to this work is rooted in her belief that oppressive systems that criminalize trans and queer immigrant communities of color must be abolished!

Isa was also a key organizer in the first ever national trans anti-violence convention, which brought together over 100 activists (mostly trans women of color) to address the epidemic of violence that trans communities face. This is reflective of her passion around building trans leadership. Another avenue of building trans leadership that Isa leads is a program of trainings that share advocacy tools and strategies.

Isa was formerly the Deputy Director of the Transgender Law Center and is currently the Deputy Director at Mijente. Mijente describes itself as:

“a political home for Latinx and Chicanx people who seek racial, economic, gender and climate justice. Often we are told as Latinxs that in order to get ahead we need to just work hard and not ask questions. We believe the opposite - we need to hold our heads high and speak out. Mijente helps people do this through campaigns, connects people across a wide network and serves as a hub for culture, learning and advocacy.”

Along with her work at Mijente, Isa serves on the advisory boards of El/La para Translatinas, Women’s March, Familia TQLM, and the International Trans Fund. You can follow her work on any of these awesome organizations’ websites! :)