Trans Heroes Coloring Book

Illustrations by the wonderful, amazingly talented Emmett Stone 😊

If you'd like to share your work online, please be sure to @_homegrownstone on insta and @sagatucson on insta/twitter/fb or email us to share :) thank you!
Marsha P. Johnson, a Black trans woman, was born on August 24th (a Virgo! <3), 1945 in NYC. Her middle initial “P” stands for “pay it no mind,” which was part of Marsha’s catch phrase pointed towards anyone who scrutinized her gender. Through that phrase, she defiantly demanded that cis folx stop bothering with trying to police her and everyone else’s gender.

Devastatingly, Marsha’s fierce life on earth was cut all too short. May she #RestInPower. In 1992, Marsha was murdered. Police said she committed suicide by drowning herself in the river, but her friends and other local LGBTQ neighbors, testified otherwise. Like the patterns of police brutality and the anti-Black “justice” system today, police were not convicted and Marsha did not get justice (#AbolishThePolice). In her all too short 46 years, Marsha paved the way for Trans and Queer liberation. She and Sylvia Rivera founded Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR). STAR was one of the organizing avenues in which Marsha demanded an end to police brutality and raidings of queer bars. She was also an AIDS activist with ACT Up, and overall, she dedicated her life to helping trans youth, sex workers, and poor and incarcerated queers.

So when we think about what the Trans and Queer Liberation Movement should look like, it’s important to understand that it cannot center the right to marry, own a house, get a university degree, or be the CEO of a huge corporation. Instead, true liberation for all trans/queer folx centers the urgency to take action against the violent oppression and killing of trans and queer people. Realizing this opens up a frame of analysis to understand the complex intersectionalities of marginalization and power/privilege dynamics. We must center our most marginalized in order for all of us to be free. That means centering the needs of Black Trans Femmes. That means centering the needs of those who face life-threatening economic poverty, houselessness, police brutality, and criminalization. Check out the Marsha P. Johnson Institute (MPJI) to learn about what her legacy is up to! :)}
WE HAVE TO BE VISIBLE. WE SHOULD NOT BE ASHAMED OF WHO WE ARE.

SYLVIA
Sylvia Rivera was born on July 2nd (a Cancer! <3), 1951 in the Bronx to a Venezuelan mother and Puerto Rican father. Since an early age, Rivera faced transmisogynistic violence both at home and at school. When she was 10 years old, Sylvia left home and was taken in by a family of trans women and eventually met chosen family member Marsha P. Johnson. Like many young trans people affected by systematic transphobia and patriarchy, Sylvia engaged in sex work and side-hustles in order to survive. As many know, she played a key part in the Stonewall Rebellion; but what many don’t know is that she was only 17-years-old when she engaged in the riots. Her legacy as a trans youth organizer demonstrates her commitment to trans laboratory work and should be used as an inspiration for trans youth having to navigate systemic oppression.

In recent years Sylvia’s legacy has been co-opted by the mainstream LGBT+ movement in an attempt to rewrite history and erase the extremely radical and revolutionary ties she had with the Young Lords and Black Panther Party; as well as to erase her militant organizing tactics. Sylvia was always critical and outspoken about the role of white cisgender middle-class led organizations, and she positioned herself against assimilation and respectability politics. Her militant tactics would oftentimes leave her shunned by those in the cis gay and lesbian community. During one instance, Rivera was arrested for climbing up the New York City Hall walls in a dress and heels during an anti-discrimination bill closed-meeting. In 1973, three years after founding Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR), Sylvia delivered her famous “Y’all Better Quiet Down” speech where she called out members of the white gay and lesbian community for forgetting about the trans and queer people in prison.

During the last years of her life, Sylvia lived in the Transy house: an expansion under STAR. She passed away in 2002 due to liver cancer, but her legacy lives on through the Sylvia Rivera Law Project and through the spirits of other trans Latinx young people.
I'm still fucking here!

miss major
Miss Major Griffin-Gracy is a radical Black trans elder, mother to many and revolutionary who has relentlessly fought for and pioneered the trans liberation movement. Miss Major was born on the South Side of Chicago on October 25th (a Scorpio! <3), 1940. After being kicked out of her parents’ home, she began to engage in survival sex work and side hustles; which brought many violent interactions with police. Her encounters with police and prison would later greatly influence her advocacy work later down the road.

After moving to New York City, she began to participate in drag shows where she formed a community with other ‘gurls.’ She is known for her role in the Stonewall Riots, and fought alongside leaders Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera. For years following Stonewall, Miss Major fought against state sanctioned violence, police brutality and incarceration; all while building community and supporting her chosen family. As a survivor of Attica State Prison, a majority of her work centers prison abolition and challenging the prison industrial complex as these are issues that target Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color of trans experience.

In addition to being a Stonewall Veteran, she is also the former Executive Director of the Transgender Gender Variant Intersex Justice Project (TGIJP), which seeks to end the abuse of trans women of color in prisons and detention centers. After TGIJP, Miss Major moved to Little Rock, Arkansas where she founded House of GG. House of GG, also referred to as the Griffin-Gracy Educational Retreat & Historical Center, is a collective that focuses on creating transformative spaces that nurture the leadership of Transgender Women of Color living in the U.S. South. Check out Miss Major’s website to learn more: https://missmajor.net/
I live proudly in a body of my own design. I defend my right to be complex.
Leslie Feinberg was born on September 1st (a Virgo! <3), 1949 in Kansas City, Missouri, and raised in Buffalo, NY. However, she/zie emancipated hirself from hir biological parents at the age of 14 after experiencing much hostility from hir biological family towards hir deviant gender expression and sexuality. After moving out, Leslie traveled all over and was part of many mass organizing campaigns. Zie/she self-identified as an anti-racist white, working-class, secular Jewish, transgender, lesbian, female, revolutionary communist. Therefore, she/zie organized with the Workers World Party, fought for Palestinian rights, was a key organizer in the December March Against Racism in Boston, led an all-night “paste-up” of South Boston to cover every racist epithet, educated folx across the U.S. about AIDS, and organized white bodies in Atlanta to push back the KKK in 1988 when they tried to march down Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave on MLK Day. About a decade later, Leslie came full circle back to Buffalo and worked with Buffalo United for Choice and Rainbow Peacekeepers.

Along with being an organizer, Leslie is also a well known gender theorist. Hir most widely known piece is hir first book, Stone Butch Blues (free pdf online!), which was translated into 7 different languages, including Hebrew, which zie/she donated any profit from that version to the ASWAT Palestinian Gay Women. Leslie was also the editor of the Political Prisoners page of Workers World newspaper for 15 years and afterwards became a managing editor. Other pieces she/zie wrote were Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba (connecting socialism and LGBT history), Transgender Warriors: Making History, Trans Liberation: Beyond Pink or Blue, and Drag King Dreams.

Leslie also has a blog titled “Casualty of an Undeclared War,” which expresses hir thoughts on hir battle with Lyme disease, the ignorant lack of science to treat it, and the transphobic healthcare system. On November 15, 2014, Leslie died at home in Syracuse, NY, due to Lyme. As told by hir partner and spouse of 22 years, Minni Bruce Pratt, hir last words were, “Remember me as a revolutionary communist.” Check out hir website to learn more: https://www.lesliefeinberg.net/