

Welcome back Experimenters!

I hope this newsletter finds you healthy and safe.

I usually try to keep this section of the newsletter light and personal, but this week I want to draw our attention to loss. Recently, a promising young experimental filmmaker based in Milwaukee passed away. [Eli Hayes](#) was only 26, and his loss is being felt by many in our small experimental film community. If you have the time and emotional space, I highly recommend visiting his [YouTube](#) and [Vimeo](#) pages to experience his work.

Be strong, my friends. Take care of yourself and your communities. Even in work like this that is single author and personally focused, community is vital to our progress.

In addition to this loss in our experimental community, I feel compelled to write about what's happening in the US and spreading into Europe this week. I am in awe of those who are organizing in their communities and taking to the streets to show the powerful and privileged that this injustice cannot stand.

If your social media feeds are anything like mine, you're likely exhausted of arguing and parsing out the fine details of this struggle for justice and liberation. In times like these, I am moved to read the words of great thinkers and activists who have come before me. In that spirit, all of the readings this week are focused on the struggle for freedom and equality, and they are written by black Americans. I have also included a number of works about injustice, liberation, and identity. These are areas of exploration that are dear to me—as a black artist in particular. I hope that these works and readings bolster, expand, challenge, and/or inspire you.

Black lives matter.

Gabby

If you or someone you know has items they'd like to see in this newsletter, please fill out [this form](#).

Emergency Funds

[Southern Documentary Fund Emergency Research & Development Grant](#) due June 7th

[COVID-19 Funding for Artists in New England](#)

[Arts and Culture Leaders of Color Emergency Fund](#)

[CERF+](#)

[Queer Writers of Color Relief Fund](#)

[NYFA's List](#)

[Artist Relief Tree](#)

[Emergency Resources for Artists and Freelancers](#)

Desktop Documentary is offering a [FREE Digital Care Package](#) for Filmmakers!

Calls for Entry

[WNDX 2020](#) due June 30th

[Isolation Film Festival 2020](#) due July 19th

[Slamdance](#) Early Deadline: July 23rd

[The Film and Video Poetry Symposium](#) due August 3rd

[Video Bardo](#) due September 30th

[X.quisitie force](#)

[ASIFA-East "LGBT Animation 4"](#)

Open Residencies/Funds

[VeeR 360 Cinema at Cannes XR](#) due June 3rd

[LEF Moving Image Fund](#) (New England, Feature, Nonfiction) due June 5th

[Sundance Documentary Fund](#) (Nonfiction) Next Deadline June 15th

[FIRELIGHT DOCUMENTARY LAB OPEN CALL 2020](#) due June 22nd

[Funded Applied Research Collaborative Studentship](#) due June 26th @ 4PM BST

Things to Watch

[Experiments in Cinema 15.1](#) (June 1st - 22nd)

[Manifest Animation Show & Tell](#) (June 5th at 2PM ET)

[Animation by Jonatan Schwenk](#)

[we began by measuring distance](#) by Basma Alsharif

[Current State of Everything: Body as Archive](#) by Dana Washington

[Ears, Nose and Throat](#) by Kevin Jerome Everson (video is at the bottom of the page)

[AFRONAUTS](#) by Nuotama Bodomo

[America Is Exhausted](#) by Álvaro Franco

[Without Your Interpretation](#) by Ulysses Jenkins

[The Violence of a Civilization Without Secrets](#) by Adam and Zack Khalil

Things to Read

Article/Essay: [Letter from a Birmingham Jail](#) by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Book Recommendation: [The Fire Next Time](#) by James Baldwin

Poem: [The Revolution Will Not Be Televised](#) by Gil Scott-Heron

Things to Do

Assignment & Journal: In 2016, I went to see Angela Davis speak in downtown Boston. This was before the election, but the anxiety had already set in. The room was full of artists, and so she tailored the talk to the role of artists in the struggle to create a more just world. She told us that our job was to imagine a more perfect world and make our work from that place. Your job this week is to feel what you're feeling, and let that guide you toward a more just existence. Write it down or record yourself expressing those feelings. Step away from that for at least an hour. Now, imagine how you can inspire others with your work to get closer to a more perfect world. How can you share your perspective and your vision with the people who view your work? Do you seek to inspire empathy? Knowledge? Indignation? Action? Reflection? Choose a guiding principle and write it down. For me, this means keeping the following quote in the Notes App of my phone (and in my email signature where I work):

“When you get these jobs that you have been so brilliantly trained for, just remember that your real job is that if you are free, you need to free somebody else. If you have some power, then your job is to empower somebody else. This is not just a grab-bag candy game.” - Toni Morrison