

I Want You to Have This

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Abstract

What do we owe each other? What can(not) be shared?

Édouard Glissant conceptualizes the poetic as a means to imagine relationality otherwise, beyond extractivism and subjugation (*Poetics of Relation*). Poetic opacities are intersubjective articulations of what cannot be known of the other, yet must be embraced by an interpersonal generosity to “give-on-with” the other’s unknowable differences (Glissant 142). Despite the gaps between us, we relate to one another through a desire to share our experiences, to give access to our embodied and affective realities. This is not necessarily a desire to be understood, as Glissant shows, understanding can be violent in its reduction. Rather, I view relationality as an affective co-presence, an entangling of separate bodies and their innumerable, ungraspable differences.

I Want You to Have This is my attempt to engage the poetics of our shared relation in all its opacities. I want to give you access to my perspective. I hope that it illuminates (or opacifies) something of your own experience of self, and being-with others. In this zine, I visually and textually explore Glissant’s three entangled concepts of *opacity*, *relationality* and *poetics* through the metaphor of “the angel’s share.” During the maturation of whiskey, a certain percentage of volume is lost through evaporation from the cask; this loss is said to be shared with angels for the returned promise of a quality batch. We are all angels; we share, we take, we try; something is lost, something is gained, yet I don’t know what this *thing* is.

In short, I want you to have this.

Printing Instructions

See “sheerin_i want u to have this_printing and binding instructions”

Reference

Glissant, Édouard. *Poetics of Relation*. Translated by Betsy Wing. University of Michigan Press, 1997.