

did you know:

incarcerated people and poor children and their families pick much produce that ends up in the grocery store in this country?

that child sex trafficking is a major industry in the U.S.? and that hotels and motels knowingly participate in this trade across the nation?

that poor people sell their blood plasma and participate in research trials for new drugs in order to survive?

that 3 in 4 incarcerated people in the Philadelphia Prison System have not been convicted of a crime, and are there solely because they can't pay for bail?

that foster children are heavily medicated as a way for school, social work, and medical personnel to deal with young peoples' poverty related trauma?

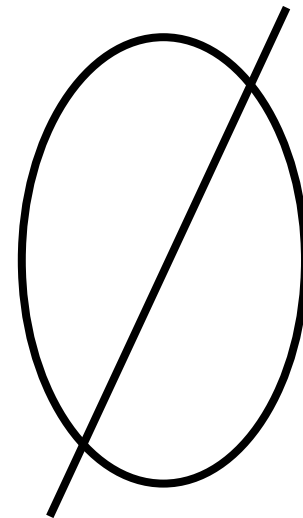
SURPLUS PERSON IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY RAS CUTLASS MASHRAMANI [WRITING], OJI [IMAGING], MARCELLINE MANDENG [AUDIO], ALONG WITH THE GHOSTS OF THE UNNAMED AND NAMED, SUBHUMANIZED, INSTITUTIONALIZED ENSLAVED, INDENTURED, LABORING, AND OTHERWISE DISPOSABLE FOLK WHO MAKE UP OUR BLOODLINES, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES.

SPECIAL THANKS YOU ICE BOX PROJECT SPACE, BLACK QUANTUM FUTURISM, METROPOLARITY, AND THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

SURPLUS

PERSON

QUESTIONS FOR SELF AND OTHERS



have you ever felt expendable? disposable? unfit for society? unable to work? or learn like 'normal' people? have you ever felt left behind? too sick? wrong body for forms, wrong body for walking down the street?

if you have, how do you cope with being a part of the surplus population?

do you hide it from coworkers, from partners, from friends? do you pretend to have resources that you don't have? how often do you do this?

do you truly believe you have value in the eyes of your employer? university? high school? therapist's office? emergency room? what makes you feel valuable?

if you do not believe you have value, what do you do with that feeling? if you are angry, where does it go? if you are envious, where does it go? if you are mournful, where does it go? if you are complacent where does it go?

who do you trust with your feelings of disposability?

have you ever given thanks for your invisibility?

is there anything to be thankful for in your disposability?

do you have a community of disposable or formally disposable people who you can turn to for emotional, political, and economic support?

are there times when you feel disposable to your loved ones? is it because your loved ones struggle with their own disposability? or because your loved ones have never struggled with disposability?

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if you have never felt disposable, what's the closest you have come to expendability? are you friends with any surplus people? do you work with any surplus people? are any of your lovers a part of the surplus population?

are you descended from persons who may have been seen as disposable at different points in history? are any of them living? have you spoken to them about their experiences? how does your family of origin tell your story of familial disposability?

how often do you push disposable persons from your mind? if they are rarely in your mind, what does it feel like to think of them now?

have you ever lived next to a prison? halfway house? waste processing plant? superfund site? petroleum processing plant? former lead factory? was it by choice?

when you hear of the disposability of others, how do you feel?

are you able to acknowledge how your freedom and/or wealth is built on the bodies of disposable persons, living and dead? do you feel an obligation to do so?

do you believe your value is temporary? can you imagine a future where you might be considered disposable? or a future where currently disposable people are seen as valuable?

