

but one must remember that the "local population" in Bushwick resided in Bushwick less than 30 years ago, so

IT'S And I think it's always been this way in NY, you know before there were the Dutch, and then the Italians, then Germans, and now it's like Hispanic and black, and now it's "whitey".

GENTRIFIER ... I'M A "CREATIVE"
How to Name Prostitutes? Immigrants? Populations?

especially. For example, with the kids we did a murals project, which is kind of seen in this community as a hipster thing.

? photographer, Really? immigrant Spanish population. artists. maybe - being self-conscious?

bars that all the creatives attended (I'm using the word creative because I don't think of us as gentrifier)

? it's very bohemian, very chic. **WHO GETS TO BE UNDERSTOOD AS "CREATIVE"?**

? **WHO GETS TO BE UNDERSTOOD AS "CREATIVE"?**
Italians, Jews, I Dutch, C: Do you think people might think of you as a hipster? "I'm Puerto Rican" identity - and I was the same was born in California and I barely speak any Spanish -

Germans, native American. I would say I'm Mexican, even though I local population. If I wanted to move back into Bushwick in a couple of years I don't think I would be able to pay the rent. So now who is the gentrifier? Not me...

against Hispanic people, Hispanic people are racist against black people, Chinese people are racist against I don't know whom... everybody is racist against somebody. But the one thing that unites all minority races is an overall disdain towards white people. It's crazy. **live in Bushwick anymore** **Where does she live now??** i wonder.

This zine is the result of an experiment of knowledge co-production about **Gentrification in Bushwick**.

It is made of an assemblage of quotes from several interviews to Bushwick residents collected by the

Human Geography researcher **Chiara Valli**. In May 18th @ **Silent Barn** a group of Bushwick residents have gathered, read the interviews, discussed, smiled, got pissed... and they have produced

this zine together with what was, according to them, the most interesting or provoking or important parts of

what their neighbors had said in the interviews. Please, read, discuss, share, talk to your neighbors and continue

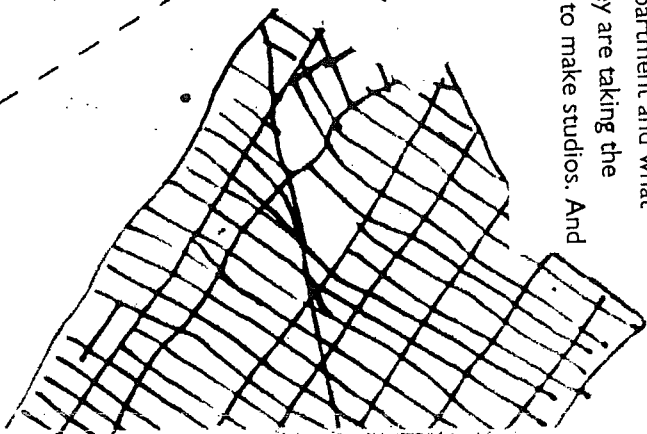
this chain of **KNOWLEDGE CO-PRODUCTION** about Bushwick from the points of view of its residents!

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HUMAN GEOGRAPHIES OF BUSHWICK

Now I'm going to sew my landlord because he's trying to get all the families out to rent to hipsters. Where I live is a 6 stores building and most of our leases are expired and he's not renewing them. He does not renew it, he doesn't want to fix things, and by this you get tired. And eventually some people leave: three apartments have already left, so it's only a few of us who are still there. We are going through a court battle right now. I live in a 2 bedrooms apartment and what most landlords right now are doing is they are taking the available apartments and cut them in half to make studios. And they get double rent.

at that. I'm looking for an affordable place. I was looking for "the next" affordable price. I was looking for "the next" place, and people told me "try Bushwick", and indeed I found a loft around the corner for 1900 \$. Today, 8 years later, the same loft will cost you over 3000\$.



And I can see the point of view of the landlord because my brother owns a house in BW and he doesn't rent to Hispanics. He rents it strictly to hipsters. Because they are single, they use less water, less heat, less everything. So to rent to a family of 4 who uses more water, more heat, more noise, it costs more for him as if he rents to hipsters who only sleep there, he does not spend much resources on them.

STEVE, 40 y.o., male, white

Do we all mix together? No, we don't. It's just the way it is, I don't know. Are you asking if Latino and African American and "whitey" here are hanging out? Not so much. Why is that? I don't know.

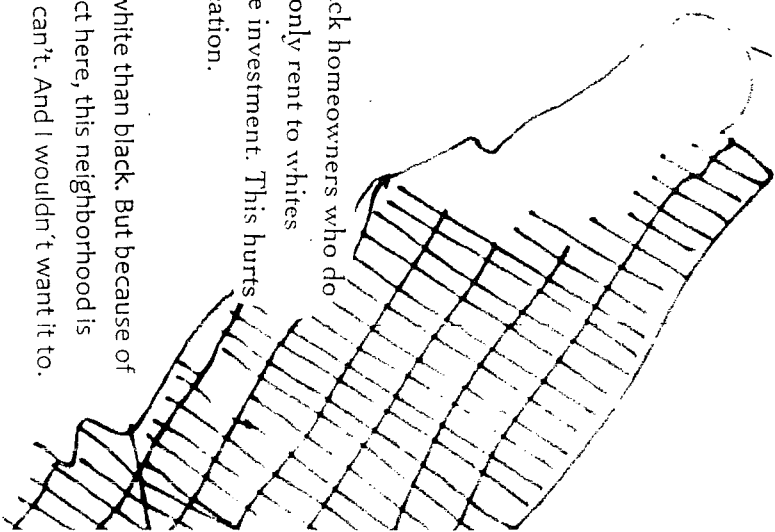
For example I know many black homeowners who do not rent to black people, they only rent to whites because they are a more secure investment. This hurts our people more than gentrification.

Harlem that are now more white than black. But because of the big public housing project here, this neighborhood is never going to totally flip, it can't. And I wouldn't want it to.

One thing I do like about having people coming in is that whatever space that is empty they make it into gardens. Where I live there were two empty lots and now there are hipsters that are growing their own food, it's just good.

"F***! This place

sucks, it looks like Williamsburg! Every time a place like that opens we're gonna leave from here sooner".



I moved here 8 years ago from Vermont, I worked in a restaurant back there and I came here hoping to open a small café.

You know the history of Bushwick, there was the fire and it was desolated and scary, so if people want to make it better, it's cool, right?

I moved here in 2005 and the reason was because at that time I was looking for an affordable place. I don't mind having more traffic, more people. Because to survive, as gallery owners, we need more traffic. So I'm more for progressing.

I came to Bushwick in 2007 and opened my gallery in 2008. It doesn't matter what you do or what color you are.

I came to Bushwick in 2008.

If I wanted to move back into Bushwick in a couple of years I don't think I would be able to pay the rent. So now who is the gentrifier? Not me...

I moved here three years ago, I moved here because I was graduating from art school and I didn't know what I wanted to do but I knew I wanted to live in a city. I went to a small college that really fostered DIY, the idea of making your own fun, setting up shows, and all that stuff that you could do as a student.

They are just really nice and all the guys that work at the delis are really nice too. Which surprises me, you know, sometimes you wonder if people secretly get pissed off to see more kids coming in. That's what I would expect, honestly.

I have been living in Bushwick for 6 years and had this art gallery for two.

The biggest conflict I personally feel is: how can I love place and make it even more beautiful and celebrate without paying it and raising the rent? How do I make the murals and beautify this environment without raising the rent?

You know, I was intending to make a survey of perspectives tied to backgrounds — but my sample ~~selection~~ is all new-comers.

And 5/6 of them are very out of touch, or at least unaligned with other voices and perspectives.

That's 83%. It's important that we make sure,

if we are working on cultural development in Bushwick, and building valuable infrastructure for it — that we don't waste the potential of our work by leaving 10% of the control of it up to new-comers. 83% of that control will get it wrong, and damage it back.

I don't think gentrification is gonna happen here. I think community building is gonna happen. But only if we can stop that whole victim mentality of being a person of color and instead knowing your rights. A lot of people lack confidence and that's a big problem.

There are a lot of people that are self-defeating people in this area, a lot. There are a lot of black people with self-defeating mentality, but it's not really about your color. You become a person of a certain kind of color when you start acting like a person of a certain kind of color. When you are a black person and you are acting like a freaking idiot, you are the same gentrifier yourself. You could be a white person and say "hey what do you need me to do to help with what you are doing? What can we do as a community?"

There is too much hypocrisy in conversations about gentrification. Let it be, it boosts the economy, it attracts more people, it brings more business to all the restaurants and companies... So what is it that you can do to make it a better community instead of whining and complaining about it?

To them it's like these people (new-comers) don't even exist. They turn them out. They are like: "They are not us; they don't want to be with us, so why should I make any kind of effort to get to know them?"

They say to themselves: "what are these young kids going around all day doing nothing when they have to pay 3000\$ a month rent?" To them they are not real people.

nobody seems to work 9-5, people are out any hour any day, I'm interested in trying to portrait that.

This around the Morgan stop is industrial/commercial zoning; if all residential, then all of this is ^{we aff}

and the Spanish population didn't live in the lofts.

However, in a commercial way, there is no one bodega in all BW that resents everybody moving out here. A lot of them have been remodeled in the past few years, they sell organic hummus and shit like that, while before they were just selling rotten bananas. Now it's very different

when I go into the deli and someone from the neighborhood is there, they will be like: "oh are you new here? Oh, let me know if you ever need anything" They are just really nice and all the guys that work at the delis are really nice too. Which surprises me.

"COMMUNICATION GAPS" - are there for a reason...

you know, sometimes you wonder if people secretly get pissed off to see more kids coming in. That's what I would expect, honestly.

But connecting to local people is a difficult task. That's an issue in itself: the lack of communication between cultures. A lot of people here don't have e-mails, or phones, so you need someone to build trust and bridge that gap.

Another thing is the language barrier with the Hispanic community, because for example the kids I work with speak English very well, but their parents don't always do that. So, to get the parents involved in what their kids are doing is a really big struggle. And I have been sending flyers in English and Spanish but it's still hard, parents still don't come, they are skeptical. "SKEPTICISM" SEEMS Especially if you have a new business, people don't trust you. It's hard.

WHY SHOULD THEY TRUST? Educate yourself. NO?

NURA, 27 y.o., female curator, owns a gallery

however?