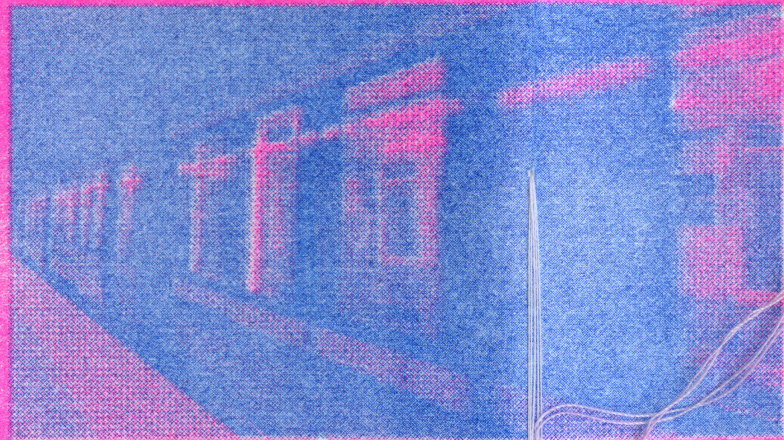
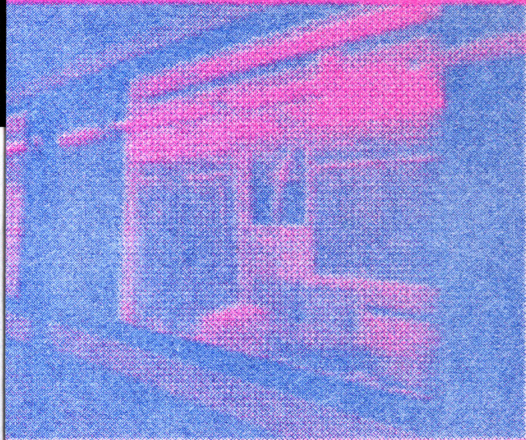


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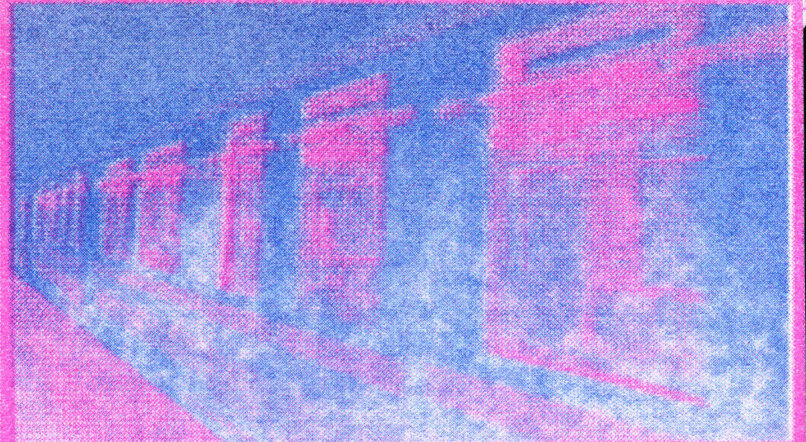
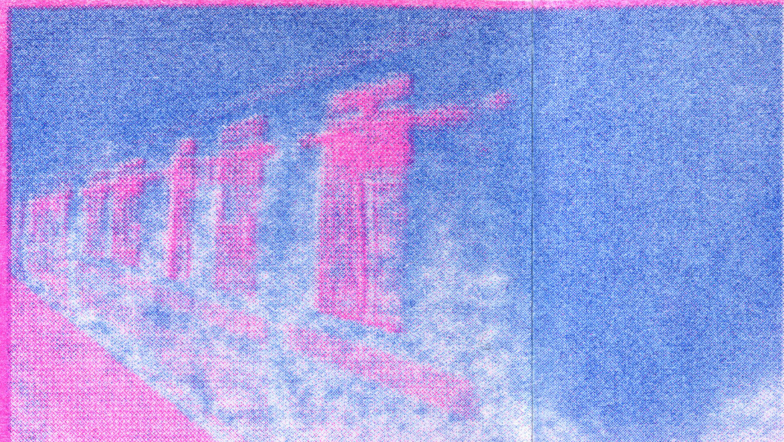
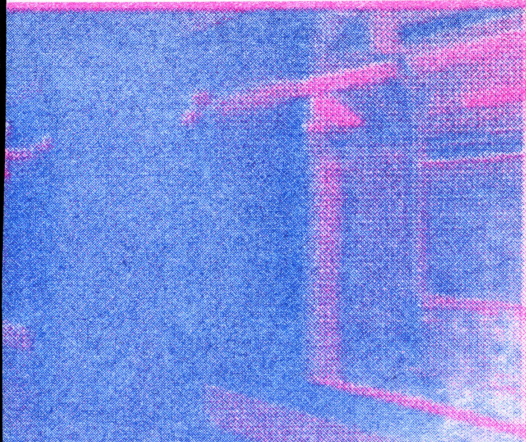
Transit Tale
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nsit Tales
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Transit Tales
Transit Tales



**Transit tales:
On self-censorship and want**

Exploring poetic transcriptions from oral history interviews

“Indeed, at its worst this feeling results in a desire to make ourselves absent from space; it can mean that we acquiesce in being made invisible, in our occupying no space.
We participate in our own erasure”

-Gillian Rose in *Feminism & geography: The limits of geographical knowledge*, 1993

“... people talk poetry, they don't talk prose.”

- Dennis Tedlock in *Envelopes of Sound: The Art of Oral History*, 1991

Attention

R:

Yeah... uhm..

ann I think also another thing that I realize
issaa
my dressing
So depening on what I weeeear
to the metro like
I think I get more for reaction
out of
men
in the metro

soo, I do sometimes plan my outfits
whuh-depending on which public transportation I'm taking

um... oor whether I'm going with my boyfriend

so if I'll be-
if I'm taking the metro with my boyfriend I,
eh,
I just know that I'm able to wear whatever I want
just cos... I feel that... taking taking

men...
only resspect... women when theres men around

and
um

and, just knowing that
there's nothing gonna be happening to me
'cause my boyfriend's there

and like if anything try to do anything like-
my boyfriend would probably say something

But I think versus
if I'm going
t-to take the metro alone I definitely would...

tryyy to cover up as much as possibleeee

um

try not to wear something too flasheeeey
just be a bit more conservativative over my out fit

just 'cause I don't want to create-
du-

I just don't want to
attract any attention to myself

um,
especially when it's unwanted attention

and I think that is something
that

I...
experience this quite a lot honestly
- like even it could be simple thing is wearing *red boots*

like...
if im taking the metro I don't want to wear that 'cause
wit might be too flashy
people might look at me more
and

I just-
don't want anything to happen to me

um...

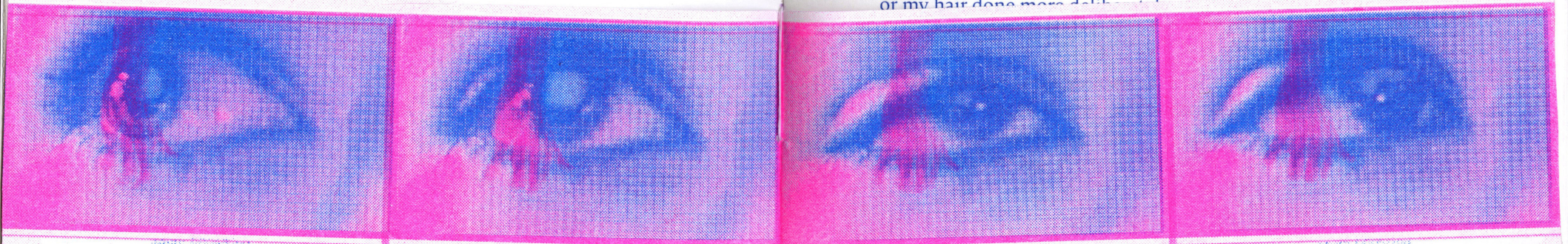
have you experienced anything like that.. ?

N:

When I think...

about my experience
riding in the metro as a woman,
I think about how my levels of comfort
are often dictated by how I'm dressed,
and styled.

I notice the difference
when I'm riding the metro
without makeup
with my hair in a messy braids
orrr
wearing flat shoes versus how I feel when walking in heels
with makeup
or my hair done more delib...



...what I wear
as I don't like to draw attention to myself in this way
and I would avoid wearing skirts
or shorts
on the metro whenever possible

like...
if im taking the metro I don't want to wear that 'cause
wit might be too flashy
people might look at me more
and

I just-
don't want anything to happen to me

um...

have you experienced anything like that.. ?

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I think about how my levels of comfort
are often dictated by how I'm dressed,
and styled.

I notice the difference
when I'm riding the metro
without makeup
with my hair in a messy braids
orrr
wearing flat shoes versus how I feel when walking in heels
with makeup
or my hair done more deliberately.

*

When I am made-up however
if I'm going out for the night for example
or needing to ride the metro
I notice eyes on me.

*

It definitely limits what I wear
as I don't like to draw attention to myself in this way
and I would avoid wearing skirts
or shorts
on the metro whenever possible

K:

um...
I did have aaa-

transit last week where there was a...

man

down

on

the

platform

who was very aggressive and shou-ting

really loud and aggressively and
seemed quite violent
and...

I was really afraid
um...

although I think many people were

hh- and immediately I...

just kind of
made-

I... didn't want to look, because I didn't
Um...

want to draw attention.. or...
aggravate him more

so I-
just kind of..

pretended I was doing something on my phone and...
walked...
towards, uh someone who I thought would be
um,
safe,
a man- who I thought could be protective I guess?

I didn't
Um...
want to draw attention..

*

I just don't want to attract any attention to myself

*

I don't like to draw attention to myself in this way

have you experienced anything like that.. ?

I Didn't Want To Draw Attention

aaaa- transit last week

man down on the plat form

aggressive and shouting really loud

seemed quite violent and

although I think many people were

immediately aiiiiiyy just kind of

look didn't wanna beacause I didn't umm

or aggrevate him more

aaaa- transit last week

man down on the plat form

aggressive and shouting really loud

seemed quite violent and

although I think many people were

immediately aiiiiiyy just kind of

look didn't wanna beacause I didn't umm

or aggrevate him more

Much space

K:

Um...
I would say
that
aaaiiy doo feeeel
umm
(tutt)
As-
thoooooough
I can't take up as much space

especially as um
other people that I see sometimes
um

like for example, there'll be a...
a free seat
and...
a man sitting with his legs very wiiidley spread open and-

he's willing to just
take up
the seat beside him
not really
thinking about it

um..
and I'll choose to stand
rather than

make him move his leg over so that I can
sit

N:

I *sometimes* feel invisible
and therefore *safer*
when I'm not made up

as **I don't take up much space**

I'm not as *noticeable*

and I don't feel peopleseyes on me.

I can't take up as much space

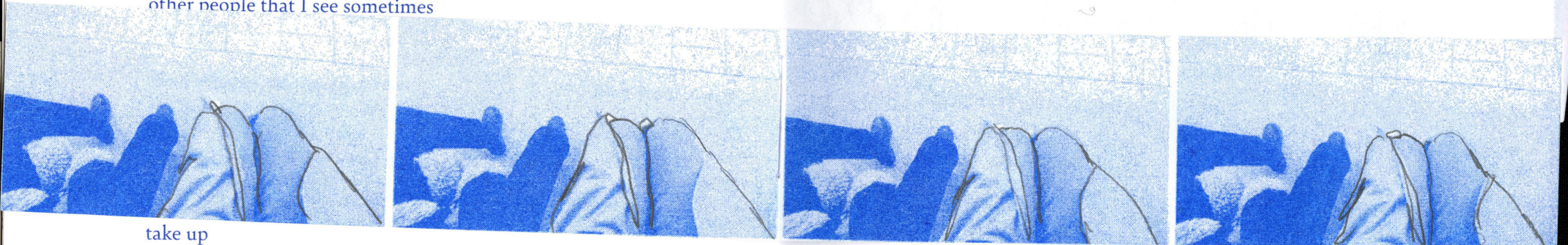
I don't take up much space

Much space

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and I don't feel peopleseyes on me.

I can't take up as much space

I don't take up much space

I want

F:
I want to be more confident.

I want to take up more space

I want to walk more with a wider gate or like,
you know,
swing my hands more,

make bigger strides

a costume box full of options

H:
uum, gender plays a *huge* role...
for me

before I even...

leave, like my experience of navigating

public space.. um and social space for that matter,

has

ananand I'm older, like I'm in my 40s
it has

...led me to
cancel my my clothing language
or my style in some pretty severe ways because at a
certain point got tired

Move around

H:

I want to be free to... move around
and I want everyone,
all genders,
to be free to move around

and wear the things they *want*
and celebrate themselves and not..

be... *forced*
or *positioned* to react
to someone *else's* ultimatum
of gender,

you know?