

The background is a solid pink color. On the left side, there is a large, realistic red apple with a small stem and leaf. On the right side, there is a crumpled, shiny silver bag, possibly a snack bag, with some faint, illegible text and a small graphic of a mountain peak visible on its surface. The main title is centered over the apple and bag.

MAKING IMAGINATION

MATERIAL INVITATIONS TO JOY,
RAGE & DESIRE

KISMIF 26

ASH WATSON

Imagination is a dream, a question; an assembling of ifs; we wonder, yearn, guess, think; we ruminate, muse; we envision, we mind; we worry; create respite; we try on feeling. And imagination makes a temporary opening: to aspire, to reckon, to invent.

Where do we desire? How do joy and rage arc our collective trajectories? What makes imagination possible, critical? What can imagination make?



DIY cultures are material invitations to imagine otherwise. And critical imagination is a tendon of DIY: it is essential to resistant modes of participation, it is a political capacity to conceive and create.





AKE ZINE

a feminist arts/research workshop series, zine series, symposium & archive themed on affect, knowledge & embodiment



QUEERING THE MAP

a community generated counter-mapping platform for archiving LGBTQ2IA+ experience in relation to physical space



MAPPING HADIY

Mapping Homemade, Amateur & DIY Cultural Economies - focus on grassroots, artist-led, independent and alternative events and festivals



AFFECT
KNOWLEDGE
AND
EMBODIMENT

AKE ZINE

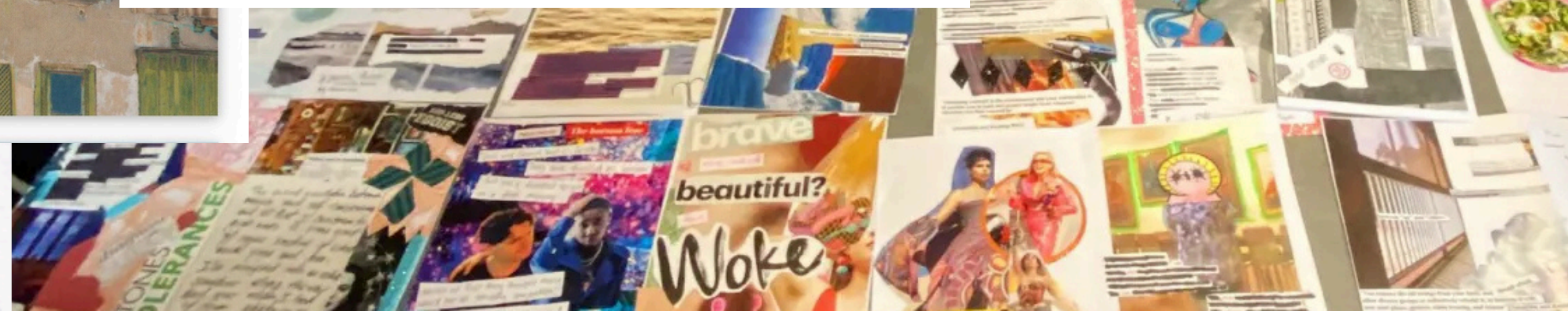
a feminist arts/research
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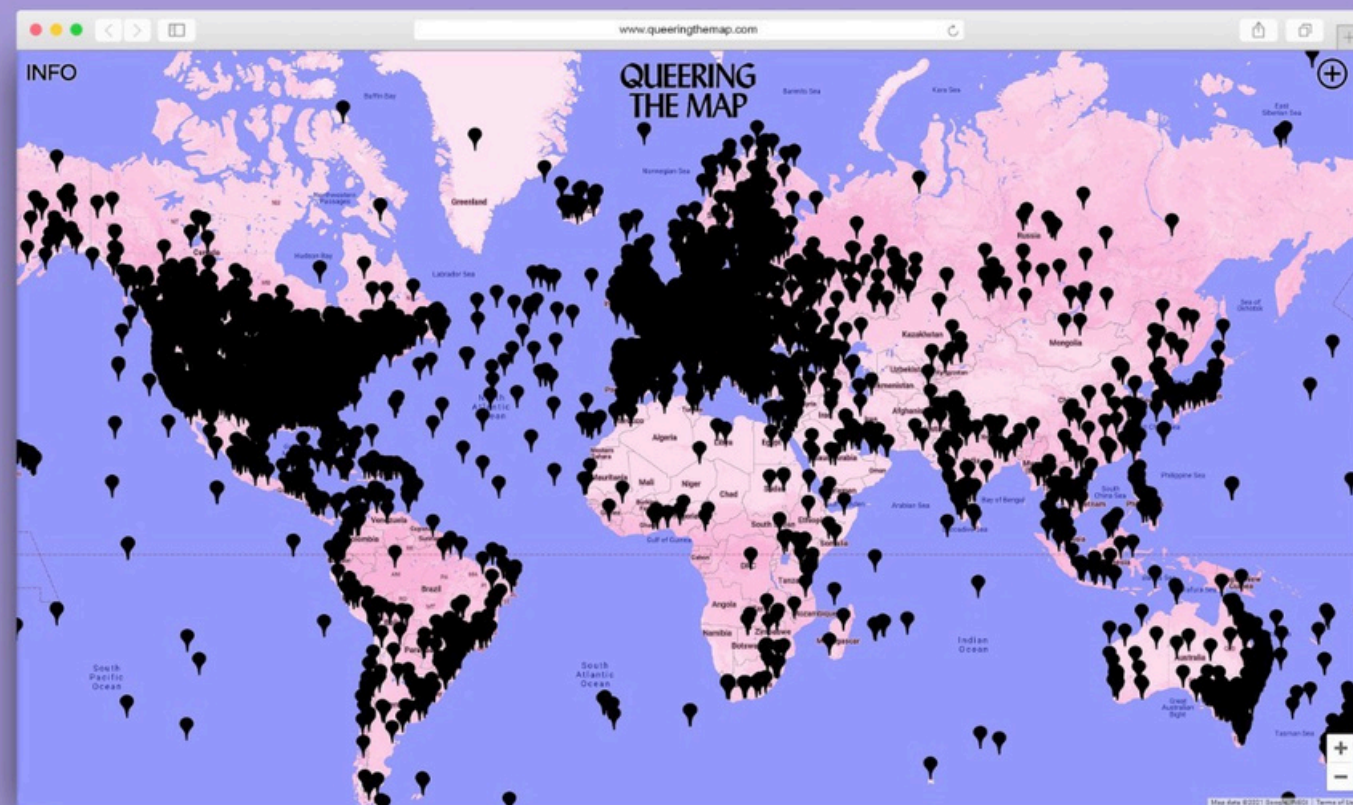
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Something *happens* when participants step from their daily activities and into these creative and critical spaces to make zines with their bodies in place

Queering the Map Story Project



**MAPPING QUEER HISTORIES,
DESIGNING QUEER COMMUNITY:
A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF
QUEERING THE MAP**

Queering the Map is an innovative online story-mapping platform and cartographic archive. Visitors anonymously pin their experiences, memories and histories to an online global map, and each pin contains a unique micro-story of queerness: the meaningful and mundane experiences of LGBTQIA+ life. These pins form a living archive, collectively building, mapping and creating space for a form of queer community across the globe.

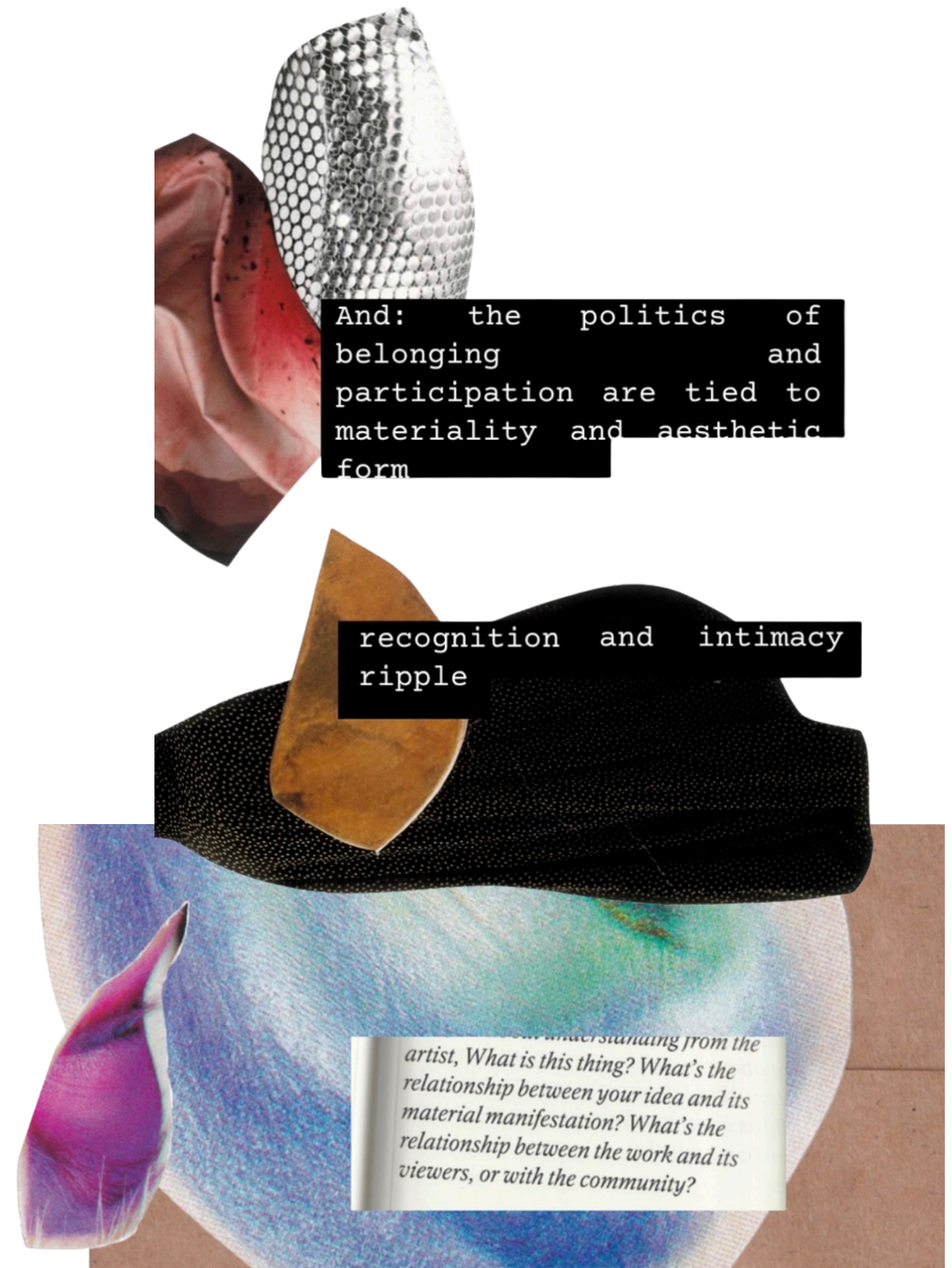
This study explored peoples' experiences with the site and what lies beneath some of these stories, extending discussions on how queerness is understood and lived. In late 2019 we analysed nearly two thousand stories from the site — all those pinned at the time to so-called Australia. Then, throughout 2020 we interviewed people from across Australia who had used the site, either reading stories or posting themselves. Thank you so much to everyone who participated.



Australia as seen on the Queering the Map platform
(www.queeringthemap.com).



what matters in the queer archive?
what matters in the queer archive?

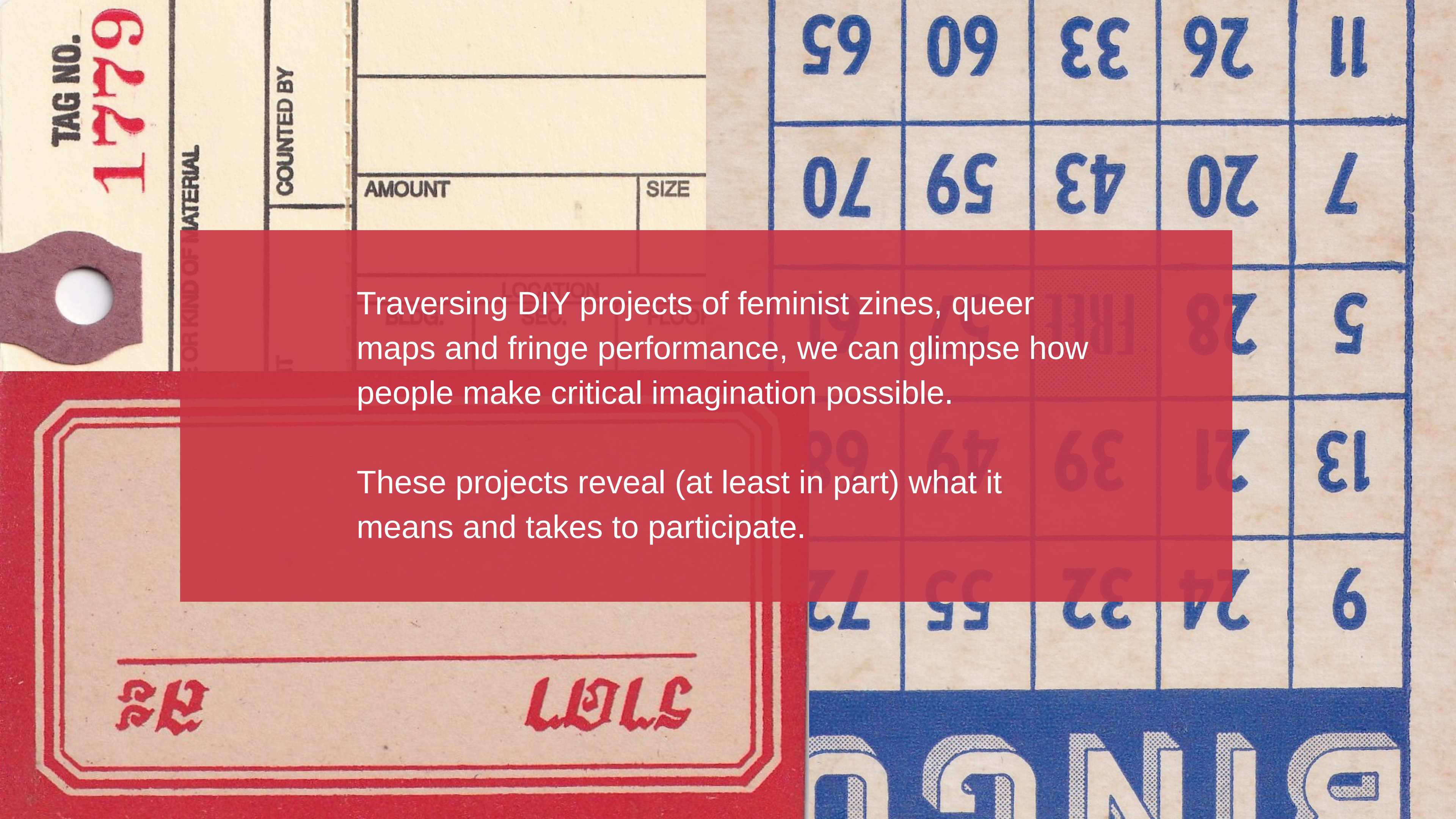


And: the politics of
belonging and
participation are tied to
materiality and aesthetic
form

recognition and intimacy
ripple

... understanding from the
artist, What is this thing? What's the
relationship between your idea and its
material manifestation? What's the
relationship between the work and its
viewers, or with the community?





TAG NO.

1779

OR KIND OF MATERIAL

COUNTED BY

AMOUNT

SIZE

Traversing DIY projects of feminist zines, queer maps and fringe performance, we can glimpse how people make critical imagination possible.

These projects reveal (at least in part) what it means and takes to participate.

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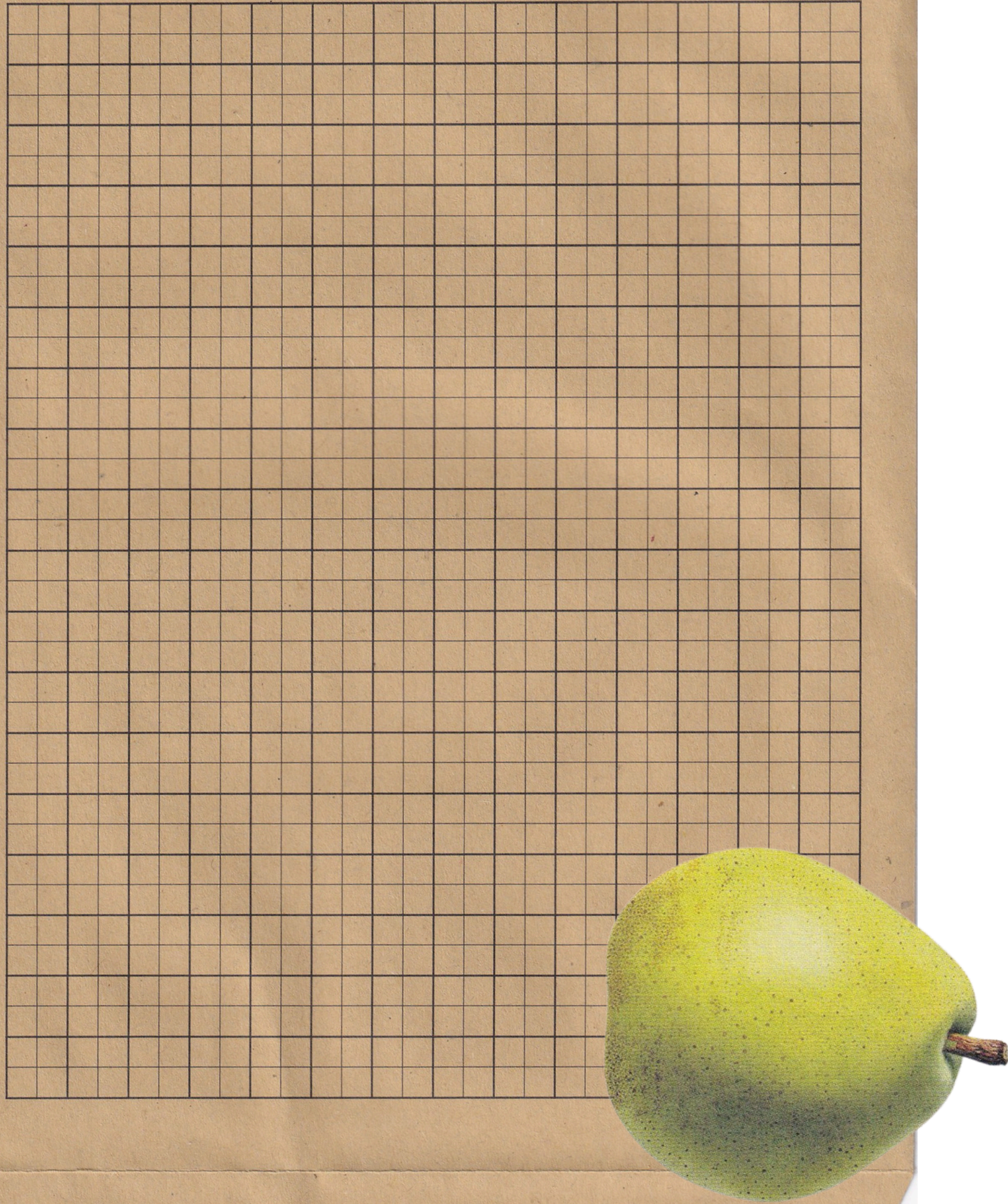
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BINGO



Imagination is a power critical to resistance. Imagination is also essential to how power takes root – to the everyday sustenance of heteropatriarchy, racism and colonialism, to how technofascism is being materialised and the future made un/certain.

Materialised in the tensions between conflicting imaginaries, we can consider DIY as a way we feel and think together.



To understand and sustain DIY, to seed critical imagination against and for (new) structures of power, we might ask:

How do resistance and desire move us to imagine?

What makes it possible to critique and create?

THANK YOU

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