

Revolutionary Mothering: Chapter VI. Between The Lines, Intro

I made my first zine, *The Future Generation*, in 1990, because motherhood was the impetus to communicate with others outside the lines like myself. I set out to help create an information-sharing network with others as we lived in this world and tried to build another world we wanted. My zine's influences grew from the Reagan era "No Business As Usual" actions and anti-apartheid divestment sit ins, Rock Against Racism punk rock shows, those concerned for ecology, gender nonconformists, and anarchism in its many forms. I watched others make subculture media in the form of flyers, zines, records, and distros so I knew what to do when it was time for me to start something of my own. I wanted to create new alternatives and seek out new ways of living as well as many of my peers. As my daughter grew, the world changed and zines went through different periods of popularity, waning and waxing. At a certain period, zines seemed to me to lose some of their radical edge of understanding independent media made from those who seized control to print what the mainstream would not, but the creation of zines was always a small connection, a letter, not always hearing back, taking some dedication to remain part of and then on other days worth it. Over time, I made more connections until I found myself; through the internet, connected to others, and then one day connected to a whole new generation of radical mother of color bloggers. I learned about networks and communities they had been building for decades. My respect for these media makers renewed my faith again in the media we make. When I met her at the 2009 Allied Media Conference, Maegan "la Mamita Mala" Ortiz (Vivirlatino) told me, "we all move towards mediums of information sharing that feel organic to us and they are all valid." Noemi Martinez (Hermana Resist) has been another influential media maker in my life, a zinester that helped me make the leap from zines to reading blogs. It is predominantly radical women of color media makers who have made the most use of the blogosphere, in my opinion, whose work has helped make greater connections as well as to give the best tools to fight against white supremacy, as well as racism, sexism, classism, and other injustices in this country. It has been women of color bloggers and other marginalized media makers who have most helped inform my rebel path, expanding clarification in continuing explorations of race and class to build the worlds we want and to reject what is killing us. So many letters and conversations, works, and efforts in a world where often for a mother there is no time to spare. No time to oneself to use the bathroom, no heaven of a morning alone, and no time to read beyond a short magazine article or online snippet.

Time traveling is a necessity. We need to tell our stories. Sometimes in a patchwork fashion like my grandmother's patchwork quilt across my parent's bed, we read each other's words in different places and times—and read between the lines. This is essential for us to communicate with each other, to break our isolation into movement as well as to fall back into the spaces between space, now and again.

The purpose of writing, the sacred nature of writing, of self-expression via print, manifesta, collective testimony or theatrical script—to witness heal, resist, and build another way; shifting paradigms and universes—of creativity in its many forms, of exploring and organizing thoughts, making discoveries about yourself and the world, growing and communicating—this is for you. Respect, dignity, justice, this is for you and for everyone. Everyone has their part to play; we can do more together than alone. Actions and words, practical deeds and dreams, this is how we build tomorrow.