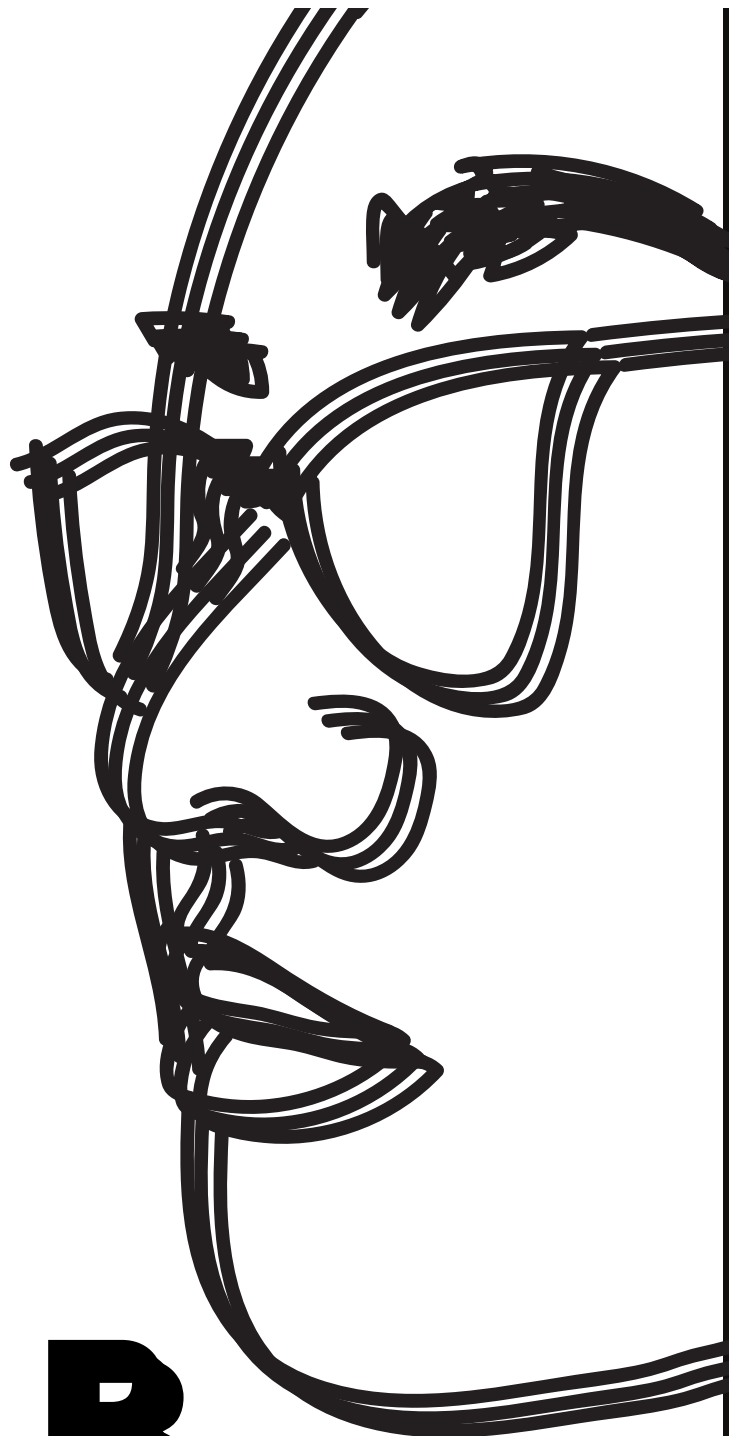


THE CYBORG ISSUE



NEWER SCHOOL PRESS

THE NEW SCHOOL'S OUTLET FOR
STUDENT CONFESSIONAL INTERVIEWS

THE CYBORG ISSUE

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Jennifer Lu

It's kind of like being a cyborg. All of us cyborgs— carrying around devices that act as limbs; learning about the world through screen; living in two spaces simultaneously. 21st-century technology is our portal to media— not as something we use, but as something we are. So as we become more media, media becomes less easy to define. It's like water in that it flows both ways, it constantly moves, we can't really grasp it.

So what do we do? We just take it all in. We absorb both the positive and negative. We talk about what it does to us and how it makes us feel. After all, digital media is a part of us now. In this edition of The Newer School Magazine, we wanted to talk impact. To do so, we spoke to three women of color about their views on the part of them that lives digitally, and how they process.

-JENNIFER LU, EDITOR



MICHA BORNEO

The Baltimore- raised writer talks
politics, economics and Oprah.

“Radical Oprah. I definitely think that if you are a Black woman in media to not pay homage to Oprah would be to dis-acknowledge the fact that she paved the way for so many of us Black women to see ourselves on major networks every day, doing what we love, being paid really well for it, and having the chance to speak to people from all around the world. We are more than qualified to have those types of jobs too and do really well at them and be the best at them in our fields.



I would say Oprah was the first Black woman I experienced in my life that was on television that I could see. She was on the television every day able to do what it is that she had studied to do in school. My mom and a lot of my friends' parents who are Black women did not get that luxury of doing their dream job and getting paid really well for it, and be amazing for that and be endorsed for that and have people back them up if they wanted.

Oprah — to me — was one of the first Black women I saw doing just that. Having those opportunities and being a curvy woman wearing her hair natural at times. She didn't have to



assimilate into normal white beauty standards to make it. That meant so much to me. It's why I do what I do.



JANE LEE

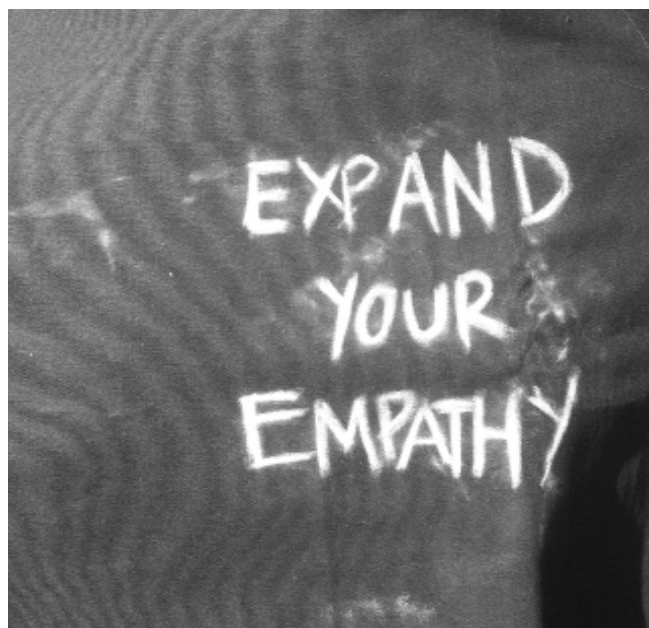
One New School student's exploration of immigration and identity through media.

On 13th street, between 5th ave. & University Place



stands a young woman who wears all black and a cape that reads, "EXPAND YOUR EMPATHY." The woman is Jane Lee.

Lee is a sophomore Fine Art and Psychology Double Major at The New School. The cape was for her fine art core seminar class. For her midterm, she created a public performance piece with a wearable slogan of text. Lee used "expand your empathy" as her slogan because it related to a certain kind of artificial coldness that comes with being removed from an intimate situation. When talking to The Newer School Press, she explained this process, saying she was contemplating "the ability to create true empathy through reading



situations globally through such a cold surface as the glass on one's smart phone."

Through this piece, she wanted to draw attention and elicit reaction discovering her public audience through the digestion of the message. Her inspiration for this piece came from recent media representation and coverage.

She started to notice disproportionate media coverage of tragedies in white european countries but almost none in Haiti, Jamaica, Aleppo and Beirut — all places she could relate to as a child of third-world immigrant parents.

Lee was born and raised in Flushing, Queens. Growing up as a kid, she mostly interacted with asian, Black and Latinx people. She did

feel a difference interacting with people when she started at The New School, which although in her own birth city, draws in students from all over the world.

"I immediately felt like I couldn't relate to the majority of the people here, because they mostly came from such a different socioeconomic status than me," Lee says.

Lee's parents were born and raised in Korea. Her father graduated from Konkuk University and her mother graduated from Sahmyook University. In 1988, Korea was undergoing socio-economic crisis with political turmoil and a dictator, and Lee's parents, concerned, decided to move to the United States. Her father now works as an acupuncture doctor in Flushing, Queens and her mother is a painter.

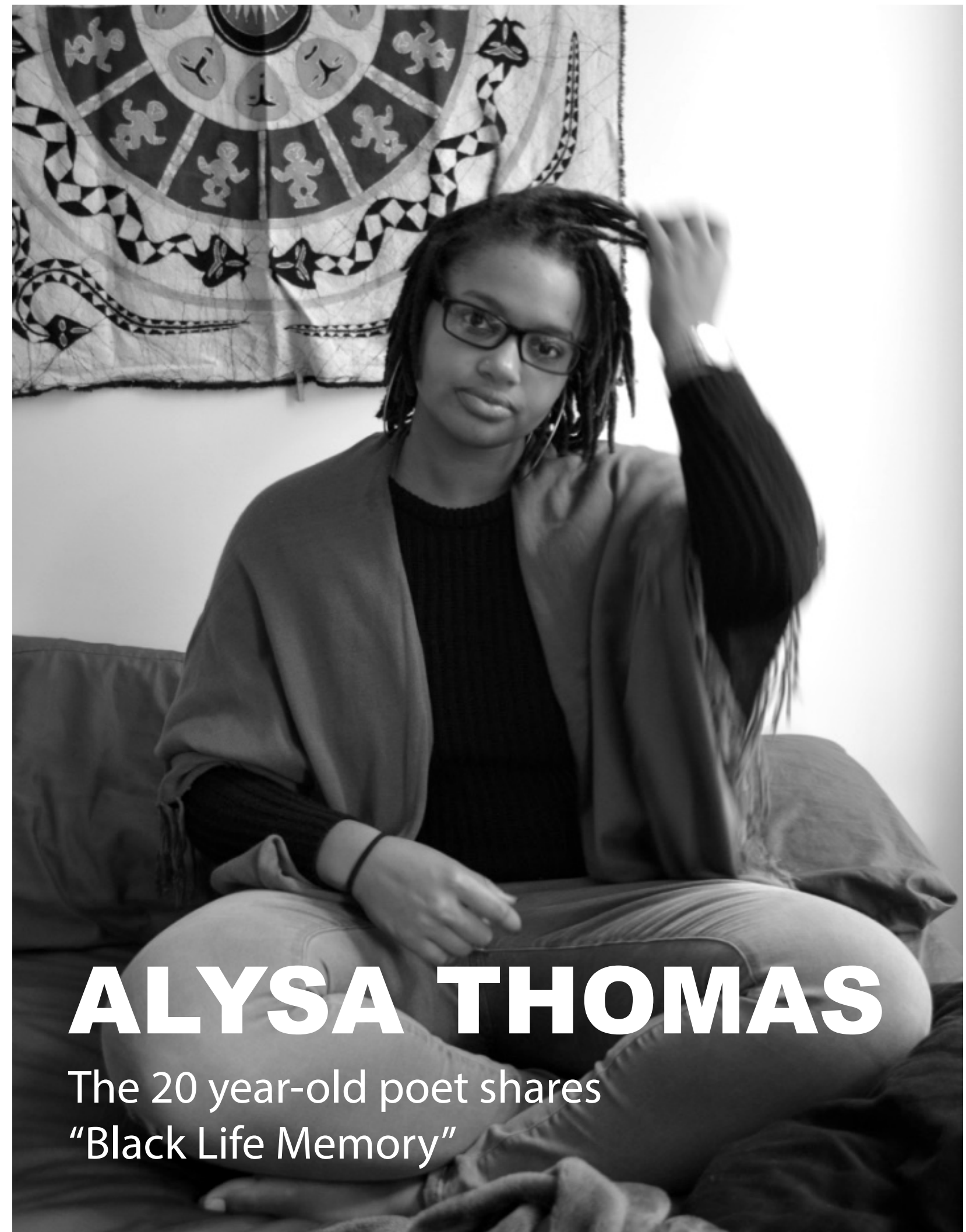
Lee never had a second thought about going to college. For her, college was her only option to go on with her life. She made this decision not only based on the fact that both her parents graduated from college, but also based on her love for learning and her need for structures.

Lee chose The New School because it was one of the cheapest options. She recalls, "It was the best deal in terms of education vs. out of pocket cost," Lee said. She knows very clear that she wants to become an arts therapist in the future. "I have a deep desire to want to help people out because I myself have been in a lucky enough position to have people who cared about me."

She has been in love with art

all her life, having been drawing ever since she was able to hold a pencil. "I think it's even more interesting to help people with art, because then they can express themselves in ways that words might fail them."

In a world where we express ourselves through emojis and selfies, we may benefit from taking a cue from Jane Lee.



ALYSA THOMAS

The 20 year-old poet shares
"Black Life Memory"

What's a black life to media?

I wonder if the heart is used before they begin to speak or do they just like to proceed carelessly?

Does their adrenaline and aspiration to be a live peak so high

That they forget the difference between celebratory parades and cries that seek for cessation?

When a black life dies by the hands of police, does the media ever remember any of the names?

Tamir Rice

Akai Girly

Trayvon Martin

Micheal Brown

Yvette Smith

Sean Bell

Eric Garner

Sandra Bland and.

Or do they become as numb to the shit as I do?

When a black life's memory is placed in the hands of the media, does the media understand the impact in this sick game?

That they are not separated but very much intertwined in the scheme of things..

If they don't,

I pray this poem wakes them up

Makes them go digging in the deepest of memories remembering why they chose this business and that

it's not all fun and games

May they know their voice speaks volume as loud as the cops bullets do,

I can hear the lack of care

How dare they placed disrespect and all the beautiful black names..

Philando Castille

Oscar Grant

Shantell Davis

Alton Sterling



Rekia Boyd

Keith Lamont

John Crawford

Freddie Gray

And.

**WASH
YOUR
HANDS.**