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we'd only been dating for six weeks when it came time for halloween, 2017. you recently came out to me as non-binary, and expressed how you wanted me to teach you how i do my signature winged eyeliner look. we took over the bathroom in my dorm room and i made up your face, and when you looked at yourself in the mirror for the first time, visibly tangibly femme, you absolutely glowed with such joy. it's one of the most beautiful things i've ever seen. we held hands the whole night, dressing up as goth twins, and i'm so glad i got to share that night with you, the first time you publicly presented femme. our relationship didn't end well, but i hope that you think of that night fondly, because i do.

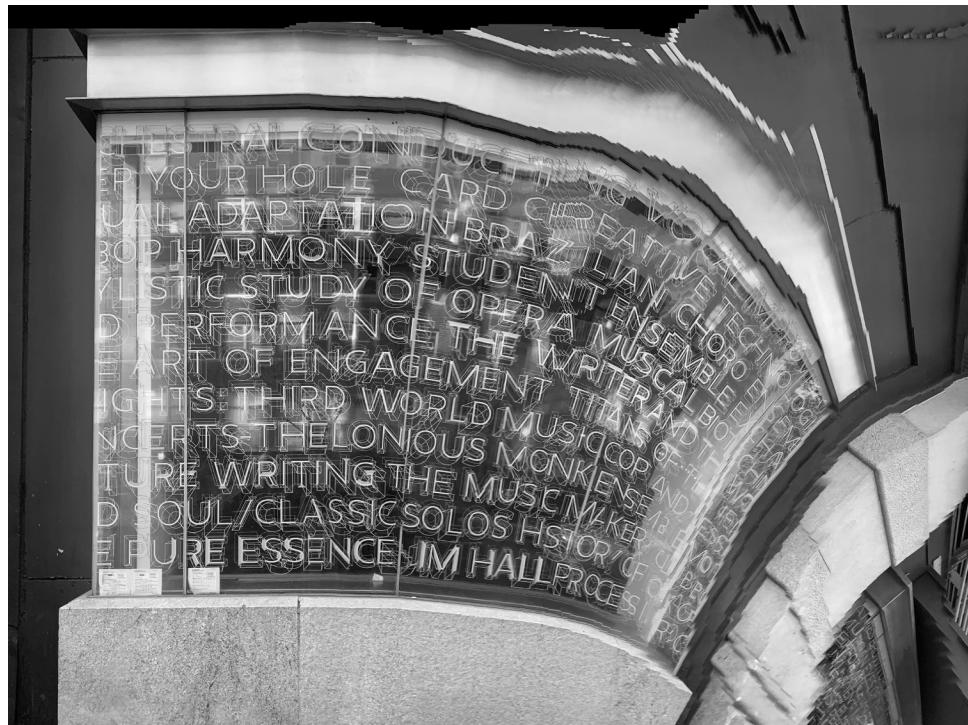
QUEERING T H E G H O S T

DISCOVER

D.I.Y

3.1

JUNE
2020



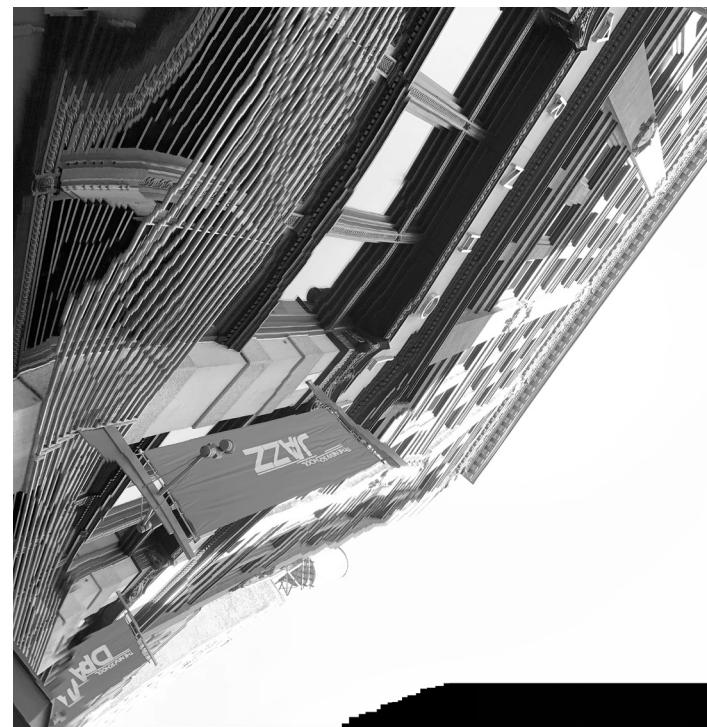
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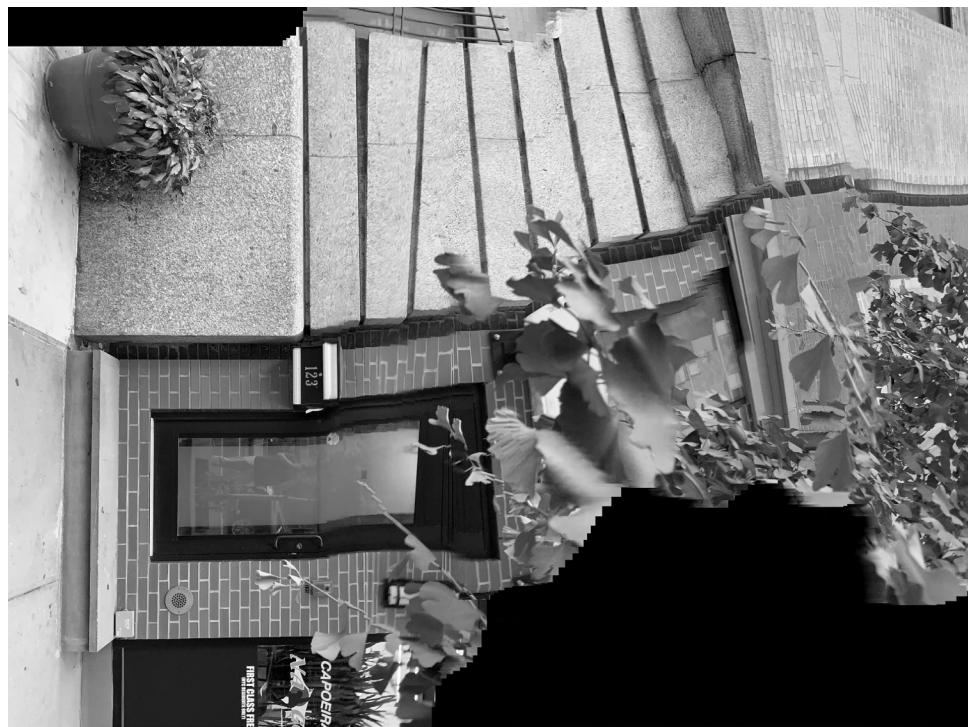
i was here when DOMA was repealed. got caught up in the fervor and came out to my mom, who told me it "wasn't something (she) needs to know" and warned me not to tell my dad. years later, my dad is much more supportive about it than my mom, who pretends it doesn't exist. this memory still stings.

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my gay self grew up here, discovered porn here, wrote many angsty journal entries here, etc. in particular, this is where i had a really intense sleepover with my then-best-friend who i was madly in love with but didn't know it yet. we were teenagers and thought we were super deep, and had a lot of intense conversations and i cried on her--my first time crying on one of my friends like that--and it all felt very deep and meaningful and transcendent. it was probably the night that kicked off my slow realization that i was in love with her. (she turned out to be kind of a jerk, but hey, i made it out of the closet and now am now having a gay ol' time, so meh!)



C



8

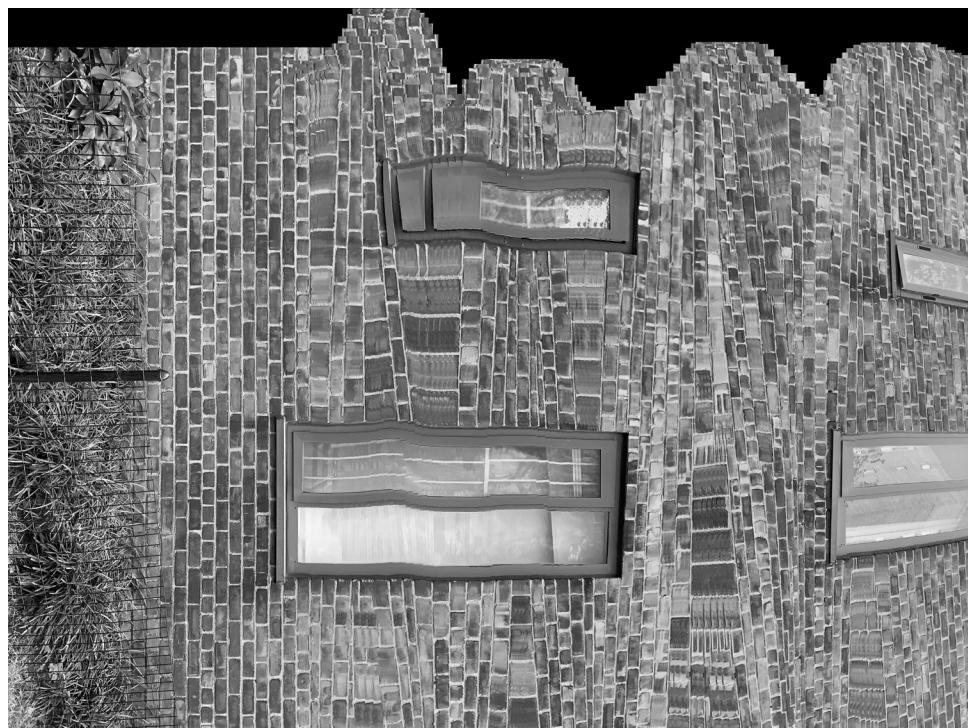
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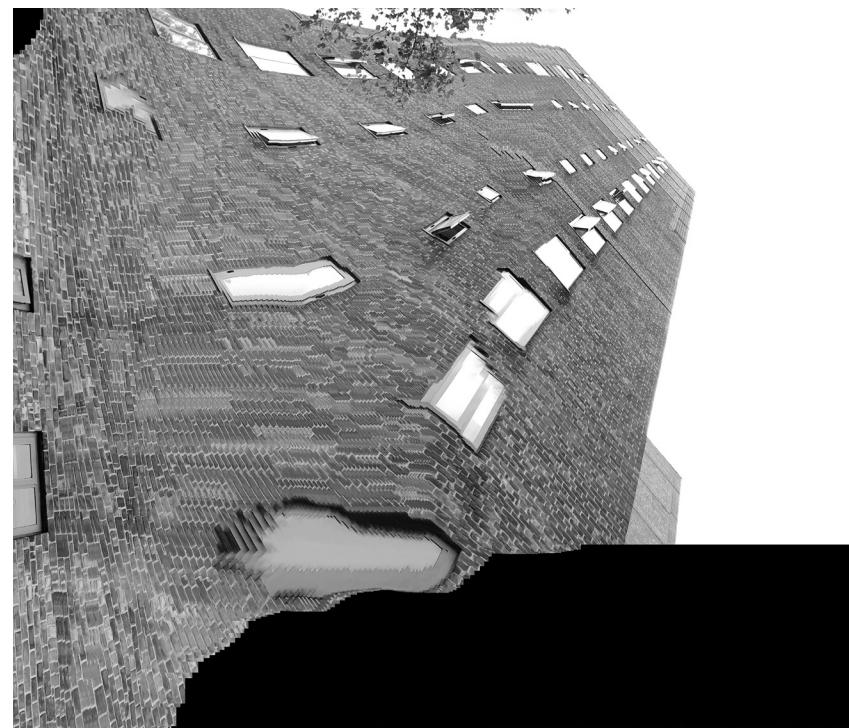
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D

you came out to me here in
a december wind. i love you.



we were on the platform waiting for the E train
when an old lady told us we made a good
couple. we looked at each other awkwardly.
i realized then that i was in love with him.





16

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-73.94682

21

i discovered my self, my sexuality, and my voice as an early-blooming teenager in this house. my poor mother endured so much from me during these years. this is also where i had my first penetrative experience with another boy. jerrell was his name.





20

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25

**when i ran away from home i stayed the night with
a nice lady who lives above a chinese restaurant
here. i was going through queer turmoil and
eventually found my way from oklahoma to nyc
and it was the first soft place i slept in 3 months.
she probably doesn't even remember me but she
was the nicest person i met the entire time and
made me miss my mother. a year later i'm out,
proud, and have been on t for nearly 3 months.**





24

L A T
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H

QUEERING THE GHOST: DISCOVER

documents 7 stories and 7 panoramic images about queer memories of discovery: moments when one discovers their sexuality.

during a trip to new york city in 2019, i visited nyc-based sites marked on *queering the map*, a community mapping project by artist and designer lucas larochelle.

i visited hundreds of these locations and photographed each site. with this publication, i present a small collection of images and stories from those visits.

in each panorama, i capture a snippet of myself in the forms of reflections and shadows. by overlapping myself in the spaces of others' queer memories, these ghost images immerse themselves and relive the queer experiences that i long for but never had.

this publication is the first part of the 3rd issue of D.I.Y (D-I-Y.WEBSITE), an independent publishing project by QIANG JOHN WANG.

the typeface used throughout this issue is ARIAL.

