

Claiming Space through Guerilla Gardening

This class will be dedicated to reclaiming space overgrown by outside forces - gentrification, familial disapproval, colonialism, societal pressures, etc through gardening. Over the course of six weeks, we will study the local history of Los Angeles and how it relates to each student's inherited traumas. We will make plantable paper made from recycled products used in the research process (notes, printed articles, etc) and outline personal discoveries on the paper with biodegradable ink. Through research, we will determine spaces for each student to plant his, her, or their seed-embedded paper. These seeds will represent each student taking back spaces previously closed to them or their families, assisting in the healing process. The class will culminate in a workshop at a LA community garden on making plantable paper and sharing research for the general public.

Throughout the class, students will learn about their personal, cultural, and familial histories in Los Angeles. They will begin to develop a rapport with their place in the future development of their personal communities. Beyond that, students will learn paper making, basic gardening techniques, and the history of community gardening in LA. The hope is that this inspires students to think of organic and symbolic ways they can lift up their respective histories.



Week One:

- Introduction to the class and syllabus
- Self reflection time to determine what issues students will want to focus on for the duration of the class
- Partner sharing exercise where students are paired off to discuss their thoughts on what they want to explore over the six weeks.
 - Partners then share with the entire class and receive feedback
- Discussion on historical guerilla gardening and community gardening groups such as Liz Christy and her Green Guerillas.

Homework:

Bring research on your community's history in Los Angeles for the next class.

Week Two:

- With the same partners, we will share the research we did over the week in pairs then to the entire class.
- Class discussion on ways we can reclaim space in ways that are semi-permanent.
- Class exercise in making paper and biodegradable ink.

Homework:

Continue to research your community's history in Los Angeles. Additionally, research plants used by your community and decide on what plants or trees you'd like to use in your plantable paper.

Week Three:

- Field Trip to a Los Angeles community garden with talks from garden members and the Los Angeles Community Garden Council.
- Discussion on how sustainable food growth has been a way for many communities to create autonomy within Los Angeles and other cities.
- Group discussion on what plants each student will be using for their paper.

Homework:

Source your seeds and recycled materials for next week's class

Week Four:

- Guided papermaking in class.
 - We will blend our materials and embed the seeds to make our paper.
 - Each student will bring how 5 sheets of handmade paper.
- If time, we will begin outlining personal discoveries from your research.

Homework:

Finish outlining your personal discoveries from your research.

Week Five:

- Paired and group sharing of each student's personal discoveries.
- In-class development of biodegradable ink.
- We will write our personal discoveries onto our plantable paper.

Homework:

Travel to your site and document yourself planting your paper. Prepare your materials from the class for a group sharing at next week's Community Garden lecture.

Week Six:

- The class will lead a public workshop for a Los Angeles Community Garden on how to make your own plantable paper.
- There will be opportunities for each student to discuss their personal planting project and for attendees to ask questions.