

2021

Artist Statements and Artwork

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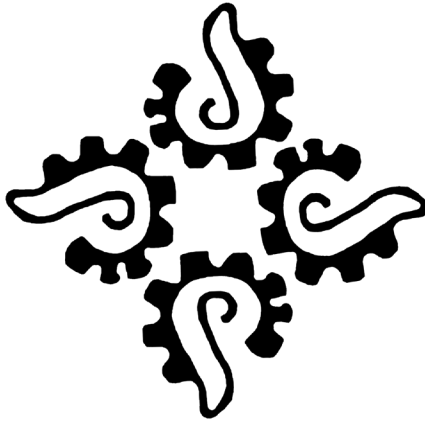


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Artist Statements



The hieroglyph (glyph) artwork was created by Michael Tjoelker, a student at Humboldt State University student in 2016.

The glyph is inspired by Nahuatl hieroglyphs used by the Aztecs in Mesoamerica. The single glyph, *tlatoa*, denotes speech, important speech, speech spoken by individuals who held social, political or religious positions of power and thus justified the writing of their speech.

This Journal reclaims the glyph to foreground the power of speech, the assertion that students already possess important knowledge, and the primacy of telling their *cuentos* – of telling their stories. By orienting four glyphs towards a center we intend it to mean that the CouRaGeouS *Cuentos* in this journal are a form of liberatory dialogue worthy of writing and publishing. Importantly, it is a conversation within community.

The artwork that forms part of the interludes between chapters in this volume was created by Jonathan Pena Centes.

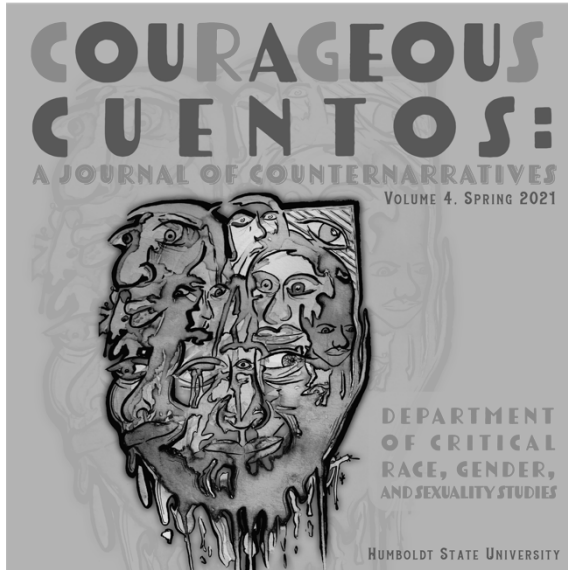
Jonathan Pena Centes



I was given the name Jonathan Pena Centes and was born in South Central, Los Angeles. I am 23 years old. I grew up and spent most of my life there up until I came to Humboldt State at 18 years old as a Class, Race, Gender, and Sexuality Studies major.

My artwork is reflective of my own struggles regarding decolonial thought. Decolonizing the mind is about separating reality from the narratives forced upon us by colonial systems. My artwork is reflective of this process; however, it is also inspired by the book itself as I often empathized and gained inspiration for the artwork from the submitted writings.

Skylar Silva



My name is Skylar Silva, I make my art under the pseudonym Over There. I am a studio art major with an emphasis in Graphic Design. I have always been interested in art but only started taking it seriously 1 year ago. I am from Grass Valley, CA, and have a deep love and respect for the mountains and mother nature.

This piece was made to represent the fact that we as people have to assume different identities while living our lives in order to fit into the "status quo" of society. It shows the different ranges of emotion that one person can feel on any given day.



