



Photo by Freddy Koh, 2020

How did I come to this?

I wonder what this is, but... I would say, I've come to this moment via invitation. "*Would you say more about what 'now' means to you?*"

Now means presence. Now means... quieting and slowing. To be able to listen for what wants to be revealed. Now, for me, is the need to create space. Space to think critically, to articulate

that thinking, to be in community. Safely. As safely as I can. And to try to not absorb so much of the misinformation and dis-information that is, also, so present. There's a lot of pollution, it feels. And I don't really care to add more to the pollution.

"Are you thinking about the future?"

Yes. I'm thinking about the future. I'm trying not to think about it -- the distant future too much. Because it feels quite bleak. I think about the future. I like to understand myself as having foresight, will, belief, faith. And in order to do that, I think believing in the future feels like an important prerequisite.

"Would you expand?"

Yes. I would expand. I want to expand. *laughs*

"What do you want?"

I think at the core of my *want* is happiness. You know, a desire. Health and care and stability... a desire to live a good life. To eat good food, to go to beautiful places. Yeah.... happiness, healing is what I *want*.

"Who's responsible for the future?"

I think we all are. We're all responsible for our collective future.

"What role do you play in 'now' or the future?"

Well, I know that I'm creating my future through the 'now'. Through living as fearlessly and as brilliantly and as fully as I can. You know? Trying to touch as many lives with kindness and care as I can. Through education, through performance, through literature, film, art-making. I try to share my... yeah, I try to share what I know. Try to share my beliefs with people.

"Do you have a community?"

I would say so, yes.

"Who is in or would be in your community?"

Hmm. My community feels very expansive which I'm grateful for. There's an abundance. There's no one kind of community, I guess. There's so many communities. There is no one community, for me.

“How would you maintain that community?”

Well, I try to do it through, you know, the systems that have been made available to me. Whether they be social media technology, Zoom, etc. Yeah, there's a number of ways that I'm thinking about community and connecting with community. And honestly, in the pandemic, you know, moving through themes of digitality and the virtual has helped me to create and source new communities. And so, I feel grateful for that.

“What do you think about the imagination?”

Oh, I'm so grateful for my imagination. The imagination is what keeps me alive. It's what keeps me doing this work. It's what keeps me invested. Being able to imagine differently and otherwise, showing that imagining in experimental ways. Failing and recovering from that failure. Radically re-imagining. And re-imagining again. Re-imagining, re-imagining, re-imagining the 'now' constantly.

“How would you respond to the idea of radical imagination?”

Mmm... I love the radical imagination. You know, I teach a course at Princeton called 'The Radical Imagination'. And, I think for me, radicality is an ability to push boundaries, to push the status quo, to push our collective consciousness forward. To increase our consciousness, our sensitivity, our understanding. It requires immense imagination... radical imagination to believe that we as human can be better. That we can do better. It starts with how we learn to think. That feels really important to me.

“How would you respond to the prompt of explaining an ethical or moral imagination?”

That's a good question... an ethical imagination. I think the moment that we concern ourselves with our imagination being ethical is the moment when we can really change the world. If we have a poethics that's more embedded inside of the way we dream and imagine ourselves forward with and alongside each other. If we can do that ethically, that means we can realize a more inclusive paradigm which will allow us to love ourselves more deeply.

“How have you been processing the past nine months?”

Or the course of the pandemic, I imagine is where this question is really coming from. And you know, it's been difficult for me. It's been a time to really reassess. To really come to terms, to again, as I said earlier, quiet, listen... soften... and to slow down when I need to. I know I have to slow down and to not push myself when I know I need to slow down and to communicate that, you know, with people: "I need to slow down". Too much. Yeah. So I like to think I've gotten better at being able to pronounce my needs more clearly. That is what I've been able to process about myself. *laughs* And that I'm very sensitive, you know, I have a very sensitive nervous system. And so, I have to tend to that by any means necessary. Non-negotiable.

“What, if any, impact has the last nine months had on your art-making?”

It's had a significant impact on the way I conceptualize and even care about art, how I engage with art-making. I feel now, that there's this pull to re-ignite and sort of get back out and do things. And that produces anxiety for me because there's a lot more healing for us to do, before I feel like I'm able or ready to engage rigorously inside of the art market. I really have a lot of healing still to do. And so with that, I have to make sure that I'm positioning myself towards doing projects that really serve my spirit. And if it doesn't, then I have to listen to that and adjust accordingly.

“What, if any, are the lasting effects you imagine?”

I think a lasting effect will be that, hopefully I'll continue to deepen. I'll continue to... Yeah... I'll continue.... I'll continue. I think that's the best I can say right now. But to be completely honest I don't know what the lasting effects will be of this. I don't know fully. I can't speak to that with any real sense of discernment. But I love this sort of esoteric question of, 'what is possible now?' And I think it's all depending on our paradigm really. I think anything is possible. You know, having to really accept that. You know? Anything is really possible. It just comes down to being able to really articulate what we need and desire and want... and moving and applying the energy in that direction. I think I do desire wealth, I desire a beautiful life, I desire good food, good people... I desire that.

“What role does performance play in a pandemic?”

I think the role to make believe. *laughs* I think the way that this last pandemic really became quite a syndicated production. And a theater, the theatrical narrative that was told very differently depending on your optics and where you live in the world and what you do for a living and how you present. You know... both pandemics and revolutions have to be performed. There are performers. There are certain acts that need to be performed in order to survive. And so essentially that's what we're trying to do. We're trying to survive. I hope this pandemic teaches us how to prepare better for the next one. Because there will be another one...

“How do you want to get to where you want to go?”

Gently. Hopefully with some sun... on my face. A smile on my face. You know... with care and wealth and love in my heart. *laughs* Is how I want to get to where I want to go. With clear direction. Guidance. I think that's how we do it.

Thank you.

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