[6/23/22] QT Viet Cafe 6th Year Anniversary Reflection (ONE AUDIO FILE)

[00:00:00] **opening:** Apex express Asian Pacific expression.

[00:00:18] Unity and cultural coverage, music and calendar, new visions, and voices coming to you with Asian Pacific Islander point of view. It's time to get on board the apex express.

[00:00:30] **trang:** Hi there. Welcome to anchor Thursday on apex express radio. My name is Trang and I am a co-director at Asian refugee United, and co-founder for QT cafe collective yeah, happy to be here with you all to share more about our collective

[00:00:48] **hai:** [Vietnamese: Chao Moi Nguoi] . My name is Hai I am a member of the QT Viet cafe collective. We're so grateful to be here. Tonight we're gonna party. We have our QT Viets coming together. We [00:01:00] have our first cohort of our artists and healers circle tonight to share their projects and our projects as part of our Katie get healing and journey. yeah, each of us are gonna introduce, start by introducing yourselves and then we'll go.

[00:01:14] Hi friends. My name is Ai I am a queer non-binary viet From San Jose. I got involved in the circle back in, I believe 2018, 2019 after attending the Hai Ba Trung school of organizing down in socal and meeting other queer Viet, who told me about Katie Vick cafe. And from there I got really interested was invited to plan one of the intergenerational feasts of resistance for that year, the year of the pig.

[00:01:52] And from there, I was able to meet so many other QT Viet events and stay involved. I'm super [00:02:00] grateful to be part of the circle. It's been wonderful getting to know everyone and their creative journeys.

[00:02:07] **Jean:** Hello, this is Jean. I they/them pronouns. I've been a part of QT Viet cafe for the past four years. I in the same cohort. Yeah, it just really combined my love of community organizing food justice being a part of just other QT Viet friends, going to meet people, which is, despite living in a little Saigon and growing up there really hard to find some I'm grateful to be a part of this space and happy to be a part of this interview, which I really view as a celebration of our many accomplishments.

[00:02:37] **Irene:** Hi everyone. My name is Irene van. I go by they/them pronouns. I am trying to think how far back I've been in QT V maybe from the beginning when we, there was a collaboration with Viet unity and organization also out here in the bay area. And so it's just been such a wonderful, amazing, magical experience to [00:03:00] have seen it go from the beginning to where it is now.

[00:03:03] And it's always been such a beautiful space where I feel all my identities can exist at once as I'm super thankful to be here for this interview today,

[00:03:12] **Phoebe:** everyone, my name is Phoebe. I used it on pronouns. Yeah, I've been a part of the QT Viet collective for about four years inside 2018. I feel I us QT Viets are everywhere. I'm, I first met Trang through APIENC which is now known as lavender Phoenix, and I've seen QT Viet folks in, but in other spaces as well.

[00:03:29] Yeah, I really love the it's oh, that's what, that's where I first learned how to cook Vietnamese food and also how to speak by the music. And now I'm doing art, which is amazing.

[00:03:38] **trang:** Wow, amazing Gatlin one good --things, everybody for introducing yourself. So now I'm going to share my screen with a picture of something familiar to us. From one of the past we've met and I'm going to invite us OD to maybe just take a few moments to look at it. And I'm going to [00:04:00] invite us into a little bit of a short meditation and then afterward, we can share , what's come up for us as a start of this interview.

[00:04:07] So this is when I thought of today, in a view and what I want it to do for this opening, this picture comes to mind. So. Yeah. If you want to take a few deep breaths while just looking at this picture see maybe the different texture, the colors if there are memories or things that that comes to you, right?

[00:04:29] This is a bowl of godly saying, I'm not saying right that Sal's and Nancy's mom go. My taught us how to make for actually the 2019 intergeneration intergenerational piece that resisting, right. Yeah. Yeah. So many different colors, beautiful colors in there. Lotus fruit, Lotus stems, carrots, coriander.

[00:04:56] This is totally a vegetarian, so there's some [00:05:00] instructions in there. Some Sesame seed. So yeah, take it in. And whenever you feel ready and able to, you can even lower your gaze or you can close your eyes. And I just want to invite you all to think about, what maybe about this dish in particular that you remember if you were able to enjoy it or if it's not, any memories from your family or they're funny ways of connecting to the salad, right? Maybe what taste dual Marnie gay, sweetness, little bit you're sour, salty, spicy, or might even bitter that encompass in, in this dish. Maybe what? Smell touch upon our five senses.

[00:05:47] Yeah. Take a few more deep breath in and out, breathing in, smell the salad, breathing out, remembering how it taste the texture on this coat, [00:06:00] how crunchy it is.

[00:06:01] And whenever you are ready, you're welcome to come back. I'm going to open up, with the first questions share who you are again, and with this little opening meditation or just grounding, what's comes for you yeah. Open for everybody.

[00:06:19] **Irene:** I can start since Irene van I go by, they, them pronouns. I think when I think of guy, I think of the sweetness, the crunchiness, and all the textures in my mouth. And it's a great metaphor for this group. I think our group is super comes with so many different experiences that are all interconnected.

[00:06:42] And when we come to the space, we make something really delicious together. We it's we're all have these different ingredients that come together. So it's, it's really beautiful and I'm reminded of one of the feast where we got to cook food, [00:07:00] the elders for the first time at the first intergenerational fees and how. That shifted so much in my body, what it meant to be able to be queer. And non-binary in a house with an elder learning food recipes for our community and how that was such a radical idea because for whatever reason of feeling, not accepted within our own homes to have that experience and to how those elders come to to our show that day I think that was a moment where I was , oh my gosh, this is something really potent pear around the QD Viet magic of this space. And so I was just taken aback to that time period, that memory.[00:08:00]

[00:08:27] **Phoebe:** Okay, this is Phoebe. I use they them pronouns. Yeah, when I think about the salad, I'm , wow. As an eating it I'm I want some more. And it was , oh, it's it's very abundant. It's a nice balance, but there's so many different flavor profiles and textures going on and I'm I wasn't getting it. I'm , is this what it's to to be my full self, all of these different parts, together and wholeness and really just enjoying it and being here right now, when I'm eating that salad. And that's what I felt when I was eating it

[00:08:52] **Ai:** yeah. I agree. I agree that boy is a very, very inviting salad. [00:09:00] Very very addicting, solid as well. Can't get enough, always wants to go back for seconds. It's the sweetness and the sourness I feel, and the spice and the peanuts, if your analogy to be that they're so good in groin. And yeah, it's a super inviting, it's my favorite salad, I think best salad out there is a boy for sure. I think everyone should try it. And I think that also feels very relatable and parallel to the queerness. It's very inviting and interesting. And I think everyone should try it. This was I by the way.

[00:09:37] **Jean:** this is Jean. They, them pronouns. I really connect with what everyone has been saying. I think guy is such a very. Assessable recipe, it's, it's pretty much the solid and liquid and crap. I always think when, whenever we're cooking Vietnamese food or particular here in the states, I always wonder whether it's the same Vietnamese food that people enjoy back in the motherland.

[00:09:58] even if we follow the same steps, [00:10:00] the same directions, if maybe there's some minute differences within the, our ingredients, how we treat it, the tools that we use, I think there's oil has always been that kind of just just connection for me. But I really feel at the heart of it, looking at this photo, remembering the context in which it was made, who made it, how the knowledge was restored and passed down.

[00:10:19] I really think that. But truly mixed the Vietnamese food. within some of the cultural wars, there's always this have this pursuit of what is authentic food? What is authentic Asian food, diasporic food. To me, I think fully part of the differences, the ways in which that we interact with ingredients, how we treasure and honor to the recipes.

[00:10:38] And I think that's really core to our message here within this collective in terms of how do we honor practices, traditions, customs, but reinterpret in a way that celebrates wholeness that can provide space for who we are as people in terms of our queerness, our identities and the worlds that we want to build.

[00:10:56] **hai:** All of you are sharing. And [00:11:00] yeah. Really resonating with everything. This is high. So I remember they going, we I remember being introduced to it. And I remember being introduced to it during the OACC. In 2019 for our parts that gathering, but it was also the first time that I was introduced to Sal and Nancy and their mom.

[00:11:21] And any food that we've created or conjured up, or whenever people think about cutie view cafe and the food that we make there it's always connected to the relationships and the warmth and the heart of the people involved. I've only really met their mom once, I just feel so much.

[00:11:42] I always feel the heart and the love and the warmth of their love, through their food in every moment that I've eaten it. It's been interesting because my journey, as a queer person, being a persecutor to get person has been exploring the depths and spectrum of love.

[00:11:59] There's so many [00:12:00] forms of love. And so when I think about that goal, I think about what are the on told on spoken forms of love that we, that for me, I might have taken advantage of, it yeah. Might not, might have overlooked because I grew up here. growing up for me, I wanted so much. Verbal affirmation and so much physical attention, so much physical embrace that I thought that associated those things as love. And didn't really think about my mom cutting me fruit, or my mom making me a meal or my mom preparing something for school just those expressions of love.

[00:12:36] I feel , Hmm. I just learned to find different and more forms and expressions of love that my parents have given me. And I think that that for me, it's just been really beautiful to be able to choose and define for myself, what is the type of caregiving and what is the type of nurturance that I want to give, as a person.

[00:12:58] And so [00:13:00] when you know what I'm making food for another person, for another person, or for 200 people we do at our events. Those are all forms of love and all forms of care. And it's really saying I'm thinking about you. I really hope that our elders and the people that are making the foods that make our culture they, yeah, that they're remembered that we're remembered for the love that we want to express.

[00:13:29] And I feel so much of my experience as someone in the diaspora is to be able to evolve and redefine what that love can be. And so, my relationship to this new land, my relationship to new people, my relationship to just this mycelium network of people that I don't think I wouldn't necessarily have met if I had grown up in Vietnam.

[00:13:52] It makes me feel really grateful to redefine and also define for myself and ourselves [00:14:00] what it means to be queer and Viet.

[00:14:01] **trang:** Right now the term that comes to me I just want to cop me getting A's kidding. Everyone share for me when I think about how do we want to open up? There's sharing and that golly saying, not saying right.

[00:14:16] I shared just come to mind. I feel that's hearing everyone share and in a way it's symbolic for me that. I'll have a own different ingredients. I'm all kinds of different textures and colors that we all bring into this collective. And that's also added a new, going, of liberal for us, that nourishes all of us.

[00:14:36] And when I was learning how to make this from gene even if you mentioned if even if we're using, the ingredients are the same would it be different? When I try to make it even just how hard I'm pressing, the ingredients to get the the vinegar out, that changes, texture of the as well.

[00:14:53] So I think in all of them learning and the lessons what I recognize is that what really I [00:15:00] think important. And at the core of all of those interactions is really wanting to build and learn and creating. New memories with our elders especially it's a part of queer and trans parents or supportive parents of queer and trans that in the diaspora.

[00:15:17] Right. And I think for me I felt it took me a while to find the Korean transmit community and have all come together, and then being able to invite our parents and share the kitchen with them, learning how to cook, dishes that they themselves, carry any evolve, right?

[00:15:32] Here being in this state and then now for us too. Learn the foundation of that and creating our own that's I feel so powerful in some of how we also been able to do that in many different ways. And yeah, I read mentioning, in 2016, I feel that's when it all started, we also started with eating, sharing meals at the table for one of, I think it was at Tracy's [00:16:00] apartment where we looked around the table and we're , oh, in shock.

[00:16:03] Because most of us are queer and trans sitting around the table Vietnamese food with each other, trying our best to communicate with each other in Vietnamese and , for me, that was so powerful, so in term of that context too, is food and language and how those can continue to be evolved. And the medicine, that it holds for us. And planning for those events take a lot of heart is take a lot of work and, most of the time reflecting back after the event is done is okay, now what?

[00:16:33] So in 2020, along with the pandemic that happened Hai and I, we were talking about , where is our heart at? , how do we want to continue build and continue to grow with each other. And that's when the concept of the queer trans Viet artists and healing circle come about. Right.

[00:16:50] Because we just want it to build a deeper relationship with each other, what does it mean for us to be committed with each other, for the next six, nine, or one [00:17:00] year, just to share about our, our practice to share about our healing practice. Right. And nurtured those tools that we have that has been able to support us on our healing and liberation journey and just for us to be, and the, in, in our fullest as well.

[00:17:17] So, you all were part of it, and you have been part of the collective for even, but yeah. The circle, but I think to lead into that, if you can share more. What are your projects that are a part of the circle? , why did you choose, know, your art modality?

[00:17:34] Yeah. What were, we were talking about we're creating a space for us to heal and whatever art formations, or whatever project that come out of it. That's no, this will be his vehicle for us to do that. So if you can share a little bit of your process that would be great. Yeah.

[00:17:50] **Irene:** Do you want to share briefly, what the circle was? Cause I hear different, so people can understand what it was even bout, how often we met or how did you bring us [00:18:00] together? Yeah. I feel is great with this question. All Yeah. And so this one, Phoebe, for, for your question. So many of us, we're both, we're part of the first iteration and now the second iteration of the circle I feel you can speak on, whichever ones that comes to you. Yeah. Yeah, I, can I pass it to you too, to share background with the circle?

[00:18:21] **hai:** Yeah. So, so, QDB cafe was started 2016 and dying was sharing, just wanting a space for cadets to come together to create art, to express, to connect with our elders to heal and. From 2016 until 29, actually until early 2020. We were really focusing a lot of our energy on a few projects, right?

[00:18:52] One was the caveat by night, right? Adapting the queer art career adaptation of Paris by [00:19:00] night, a very desperate phenomenon. Really allowing us to fully express our artistic selves in a kind of part open my part, showcase part exhibit kind of extravaganza of sorts. And and another kind of project we were leaning into, which some of you've already shared were, are But, or lunar new year, intergenerational feasts, the resistance.

[00:19:27] And so how could we how could we celebrate our queer and trans illness and there'll be witness and bring all of our identities together in some, in a cultural celebration. That's so well-known in our community and do it in a way where we are inviting our elders and our families, where our elders in our families can see us in our full selves where it's still part it's part showcase, part meal part just .

[00:19:57] Everything in one. Those meals were [00:20:00] for a lot of us our entry point into cubic cafe and where a lot of our friends and our allies came, but also a chance for our families and our elders to really see who we are and what we're doing. And a really big space for for healing, both ways from us as the younger generation to our elder generation to heal in our journey for acceptance tolerance, love to really be centered.

[00:20:28] We also tried other things too. You were trying to be an LLC business. We, we're know doing workshops and different things, but really those four years. Really trying on these showcases these meals. And I'm just really grateful because all of us, I feel we're part of those waves.

[00:20:50] Right. I know some of us have been there since they day one. And folks have joined in during those years too. [00:21:00] And Dan was mentioning the what I was noticing was that we'd have such a high, February, March should be thought and it'd be , yes, I cry.

[00:21:09] Yes, heal, heal, heal your elders being , oh my God, you're beautiful. And then it'd be springtime. And I'm , what. Whereas everyone up until we'd get back together, maybe for, we'd have summer parties maybe, or we'd have fall harvest moon gatherings for detrimental.

[00:21:28] But I was, I feel I really wanted to explore this question about what can we do together that we couldn't necessarily do on our own? And I felt , how can our I was really, really thinking with Jang, how do we re-center our energy towards being a. Cultural healing hub, and really commit to each other's healing and really commit to each other's art practice.

[00:21:57] And so I just, we just had this [00:22:00] Wildish idea and what if we just get together more often? And what if we actually start sharing with one another? What, what are our what is it that we want to heal from? What is it, what is the type of life that we want to live? What did, how do we want to be expressing what is the art that we want to.

[00:22:21] How can we build up not only each other's portfolios, but each other's lives and livelihoods. And so we put a call out and we all, we all said yes, 11 of us said, yes. Including the six of us here. And so for, for me, the QT did cafe artists and healer circle is a Let me take a breather. Okay. So for me, the, the QT VIT cafe artists and dealers circle it is a cohort by and for cubit artists and healers making space to really [00:23:00] deeply nurture and support. Our individual, each other, and collective group art forms and practice and share that creative expression with the greater community.

[00:23:10] So, for me, we were meeting we were meeting at least once a month for nine months and for this first cohort, and we would meet in between some times for optional creative sessions and it culminated in in a, another showcase in May, 2020. And so the six of us here 10 yeah, the six out of 10 artists who did a piece or did pieces were part of that showcase.

[00:23:41] And yeah, I think we I'm just grateful that all of you said yes. And keep saying yes to this concept and yeah. And just want to bring back Dennis questions about, also, , why did you know, why did you say yes, why did you join the circle? Why what did you, , [00:24:00] how did you benefit?

[00:24:00] how did you benefit? What did you really want with being the part of this circle? What came out of it? What what piece, or what art did you end up doing? What was that modality? How was that process for you? What was that journey for you? And yeah. Was that

[00:24:25] **Ai:** okay. I can go first. This is Jane again with they them pronouns. Yeah, there was a lot. It is a lot of back, a lot of contexts. I think I really appreciate, I was coming back and thinking about how we arrived here. I always think for me What does it mean to be with, to be Vietnamese?

[00:24:43] And I think the answer is very different depending on who you ask. My mom always says if I were to go to Vietnam, they would not consider me for dummies. Joyce picked up, to speaking Vietnamese, Vietnamese, make one Vietnamese. Some people think it does. That might one possible answer, eating the food, [00:25:00] Vietnamese food knowing the history there, I was born here in the us.

[00:25:04] I was born around the other Vietnamese people. But I guess the way of what it actually means to be Vietnamese in addition to all my other stuff, being queer, being non binary. I think being a part of the collective space really helped me anchor in, but that definition means to me, I really feel As people of color as queer and trans people, within the U S we are part of captive group marginalized people.

[00:25:32] And I think one part that really, to me, was healing and healing in terms of helping me understand myself, was uncovering these parts of Vietnamese identity that is rooted in imperialism, anti colonization, learning about how do we have ancestors. We have so many documentations history, so many warriors.[00:26:00]

[00:26:00] Who have lived on before us who in their own way challenged what it meant to be conquered or what, what I meant to be marginalized. And so for me, I carry that on when I think about artwork. When I think about creation, when you think about building community I think I mentioned this before, but I'm always kind of , not really, sir, that I'm experiencing the same reality as other people.

[00:26:23] And so I think from my art background is as a painter is transplant drawing and painting. Painting helps me at least, mark down, drew pigment, but I can see, and I think I'm really particularly interested in a form of artwork that's based in, you can reference in this European 19th century style portraiture that Nobles governors really kind of rich people get to commission artists and see themselves revered.

[00:26:55] I'm interested in turning that taking that lens and applying it to ourselves [00:27:00] as queer people. And that was the basis of what I did last year. It's something I'm still continuing on right now in terms of building up my skills, training my eye, learning how to really communicate what I see visually.

[00:27:12] Yeah, so that's obviously really wiping up. So I think, being in COVID being quarantine. The few upsides is that it's given me sport time to be mindful of how I spend my time mindful a lot. I want to invest my time in doing or getting better at. And so, you know what this period I would really to develop more into, what does this form of observational?

[00:27:39] How can I really push it in terms of these boundaries? How can I tie it with my identity? How do I create meaningful art? That's not just simply I don't know, xeroxing something, I think AR is meaningful when it's thoughtful. I think art is meaningful and good when you can really feel intense behind it.

[00:27:59] And [00:28:00] so for me, I'm trying to think about. Ha, how do I push myself? And it's honestly an ongoing process. One, I think really great part of the circle is because we're in community as artists and many of us have very different disciplines. We really can learn a lot from each other's mediums.

[00:28:19] And we have a shared protective space where we can talk about these things and get feedback and critique. So yeah, I'm actually very interested in learning what other people are up to.

[00:28:29] **Irene:** I can go next. This is Irene. I go by, they them pronouns. I'm really sitting with what high you said about if you weren't living here, the diaspora. On this land, you wouldn't have maybe be able to meet the same people. Cause that really struck me because I think I have a lot of grief when I think about us being diaspora and not living on the Homeland.

[00:28:53] But when you said that, I was , wow, it's really feels this blessing now, or a gift that we've been [00:29:00] given to be in community with each other right. I don't know if I would turn back time knowing that I got to meet you all and that we're building community together and we're becoming the ancestors we wanted in this diaspora, so now I'm , whew, okay, let me shift how I feel. And still hold that. That I think it's holding that tension, that complicated mess, yes. G and the multi-verse, everything everywhere all at once. So I just want to see that first when I joined the Katie VIT circle, I think I wanted to just hang out with my friends.

[00:29:33] I, I love all the people in Katy bit, so oh, okay. Let's just hang out monthly. That's talk about art and healing, which I think naturally comes up when we hang out anyways and to create an intentional space. What I didn't realize was how important or essential this space was going to be for me.

[00:29:51] I had gone through a really terrible breakup where I was with someone. And I shared my hopes for my [00:30:00] gender journey around possibly exploring hormones and other things. And my partner broke up with me two days after proposing to me. So it was, it left my world really shattered and coming to QD bit cafe each month was how I held on when I go through, when that happened, it was such a huge rejection of who I was as a person that I ha I went through a phase of a lot of really self hatred, a lot of wondering if I could be loved again.

[00:30:29] Or wondering if I could be loved for my fullness. And coming back to Kiva and seeing everyone's faces and being able to be in my full self was that once a month shot that I needed it to keep going. So, and, and I had no idea what I wanted to write about, but I think we had all these moments where we got to just journal draw and a lot of the stuff that came up was he trying to heal from that breakup.

[00:30:56] And so what I chose to put on was [00:31:00] poems about, one of the poem titles is to the cis-gender people I've ever loved. And how do I affirm myself after after that breakup. After years of feeling I had to fit in a box or be perfect or live this hetero life and follow that direction.

[00:31:18] And knowing that I don't actually need to. And in that a lot of it was , our community is so magical. And if someone can't see that, then why should they be in my life? And I think that's a lot that I came to through this circle because of how healing the space was. So for me, it was tons of crying going on, a hot spring root sheet with JAG to process and write out our pawns and our work and, and also being brave enough to do it because my peers were also doing such a brave work.

[00:31:55] Everyone was healing through something. There's I felt it was grief for everyone that people are [00:32:00] looking through. That allowed me to show up because other people were so, yeah. And I think what I'm still figuring out what next for this next circle. But I think that there's always something potent happening in my life that I need to work through.

[00:32:18] And so my hope is to really explore intergenerational trauma and substances and healing through that. And it's so funny because it's something that I hold a lot of, shame and guilt to talk about, but not when I bring it to the circle, I know that I won't be judged and I will be loved for my healing process, which is so rare to have.

[00:32:40] **Ai:** I, this is I I just wanted to share about how I got involved in the circle and the project and all that. What you said really resonated with me, Irene, the whole navigating of shame and judgment and. Having the circle as a place [00:33:00] to process and Being able to witness everyone's bravery in the process of kind of healing.

[00:33:07] Yeah, the circle really meant a lot to me. I , really am so glad that I joined the circle in the midst of a pandemic in quarantine. There was just so much going on at the time. And there was so much grief out there, but also personally and yeah, I don't think I would've really been able to get through the pandemic the same without meeting with the circle on a monthly basis.

[00:33:37] I. Oh really lost in kind of my creative process and what I was really using the art to share. It made me realize what my artistic process was and how lonely it honestly follow to just draw alone and not really share it with [00:34:00] others who were also working on their own art.

[00:34:04] I think being given the space Katie of, at cafes to work through it made me realize how fricking messy grief is in trauma and how it can come out. And if you come gushing out and Being able to catch it all is extremely difficult, but it felt extremely possible. When I met with the circle slowly but surely it came together and I was able to draw out little portraits for everyone.

[00:34:31] It was honestly a refreshing practice to go back to drawing comics and, little portraits for my friends who reminded me of just kind of whoa was possible and still out there. I think being Vietnamese and queer, there is a lot of shame that I was grappling with and yeah, it felt extremely lonely, but being able to express that.

[00:34:56] Chris and fitness with others. It, it really changed [00:35:00] how, how I see art making now. It's completely different making art alongside others or with others has really opened my world. And now I don't feel as lonely at all. And I feel comfortable and safe to practice relationships and communicating and expressing my Vietnamese and my queerness in an unapologetic way because of the circle.

[00:35:26] And yeah, I'm super excited for what's to come. The more time I invest into other queer people, the more excited and more energy I want to put into our success and our vibrancy and our dreams and our, our collective future together. And yeah, it gives me a lot of hope.

[00:35:45] **Phoebe:** Hey, this is Phoebe speaking you said pronouns I think we resonated with what folks shared so far about grief. A lot, that was a really big game for our different works, but not all works. My art style or format for this for the past circle [00:36:00] was your movement sided ribbon dance. You mean dancing, which is very flowy and very colorful.

[00:36:04] It's basically a cloth on a stick, but I'm moving it around. And it was very fun just to experiment with something in New Zealand that and this year I'll be doing writing as well. And I think one thing to highlight about the circle was I it's, to me, it feels very limitless.

[00:36:18] I feel anything is really possible when I'm in. Did you pick a Fe in this space? Not just say with the people here, but also with the potential people be on cue, a fade have yet to join. There's so much power and love of him, the space. Makes it feel me safe and I'm comfortable.

[00:36:35] Yeah.

[00:36:36] **trang:** Through I'd everyone sharing. I think definitely I was working with grief as well, in my piece and it's, I feel it's a continuous journey and I feel for myself, and maybe along with many others, we didn't know what our pieces were going to be, when we entered the circle and just being able to trust, [00:37:00] whatever come out is what needed to come out.

[00:37:02] And at that time and space and how, yeah. I feel the collective grieve and the collective holding and. That we were able to provide for each other, the vulnerability, the courage of his ought to, and I feel we have been doing that. Right. And then it's only becoming, I feel stronger and more rooted, building that together.

[00:37:28] And I feel for me, it definitely take a lot to come to term of am I an artist? I'm , no can I call myself so, or, I think the colonizing, what that means for me as well. And I think for me at the, at the core of it is yeah, there, there, art is my first love and just way for me to express and share my full story and be in this space where time and space is not an issue.

[00:37:56] Right. And, and whatever that my body [00:38:00] has been holding, that my mind, my heart and spirit has been holding. It's a space of breed. Right. It's there's that grievance then there's this collective honing and letting go of that belief and exploring also then what now? There that space and what do I want to invite into that space?

[00:38:17] And what intention do I want to, to call and right. So yeah, I think there, many of you share that definitely the themes of, grief that's there. And also the theme of our struggle case last year, it was love queer. Right. And there's so many iterations and play on words of how the theme was raised.

[00:38:35] So love way, mean loving Homeland, love queer, you loving our queer. Transmit excellent. And they way, going to a, returning to the Homeland and, and queer returning or going back to queerness, I feel , which for me, it's this circle of coming back to our full, the self, right?

[00:38:57] Who helping and [00:39:00] holding hand with each other. I feel envisioning this, this, collective holding hands with each other in circle, which we, we did the day up to, just opening up the space together, for, for us and I think that is so important, as reminded me, grief is not a process in which , yeah, we go through alone and having that space to be together and, and being able to work with.

[00:39:23] Collectively and, and alongside with each other is so important and it's so crucial. And yeah, there's a lot, I feel I say, it's definitely a lot less and a lot more of those, so, yeah. Yeah, I, is there anything you want to share or should we go onto the next question?

[00:39:39] **hai:** I can share really brief if that's okay. Yeah, my my my mom had passed in in this lifetime August, 2018. And so, I had been holding waves of grief from that point. And I'd want it to really I really wanted to explore themes of [00:40:00] survival and death and grief.

[00:40:03] And what does it mean to come to peace with not being able to do things with your mom or your parents when they're not here anymore. And so, I am semi obsessed with food and so, my piece was a kind of a multimedia piece. My, I had eaten my mom's job or meat flaw.

[00:40:29] Dried meat floss and had, smell to it. And my mom told me stories about it, but I've never made it with her before and up until her passing. I was really obsessed with cooking with her and wanting to learn all of her stories. And a year before she passed, we, she had I asked her if I could, she told me the story of her being a boat person and how Debbie was the last thing that she cooked before she left on the boat and was most likely to think that a lot her and my brother to [00:41:00] survive being out a week out in sea.

[00:41:02] And so, the, a year before she passed, I asked her if she. Could teach me how to make it. And that day in this lifetime didn't come. And so my piece was exploring kind of the mini stories of growing up with Deb growing up and trying to cook and do something when you're when a loved one has passed.

[00:41:26] And and ultimately it was a love letter to her because some, I realized, growing up, I was very naive and she didn't really say, I love you very much. Or she didn't really hug me very much. And so, but I realized that all of her cooking, all of her meals, those were her expressions of love.

[00:41:44] And so, me creating the stepmom and figuring out how to do. Somewhat and learning from her ways, but in my own ways was me trying to say, I love you back. And so that was my piece. And yeah, I'm still thinking about kind of the [00:42:00] future pieces and what that'll be. But yeah, I'm going back and forth between, what are the, what is Lily man, what is, what is our mother tongue?

[00:42:08] ? What are the tastes and flavors of our moms and the things in our lives. And now, even though my mom isn't here in this lifetime who are the moms and femmes in our lives that we want to remember the flavors and tastes from. And so I was want to explore that idea and cook with other moms, other moms Sorry, moms of other QT visits.

[00:42:32] I'm , I'm a mom, not, maybe not in the traditional sense. But also exploring things around. Yeah. Cutie did sensuality and enjoy and tenderness and romance. So, but yeah, I think we can go to the next phase, we're going to be wrapping up soon. Can I ask, can I ask the six year anniversary questions to wrap up?

[00:42:59] [00:43:00] Okay. So yeah, I wanna, I'm just so grateful for, for for you all for sharing and I'm just excited for our continuing. Friendship and our journey in creating more art and giving together. And so this August yeah, marks the six year anniversary of kitty, that cafe. And yeah, I think my question is what do you hope for, for the next six years of QT, the cafe?

[00:43:29] What do you want to share with the next generations of queer and trans vehicles?

[00:43:36] **Irene:** Yeah. I think when you ask the next six years, I was , oh my God. I was , overwhelmed. But, when I settle into it, I'm , yeah. It's now we are me. It's of course I want assisted living communities six years from now, lifetime. This is a community. Right. And

[00:43:53] when you think about the next generation, ain't I think a lot about the creative chance, Viet [00:44:00] youth that I work with and how much they need a space. And I, do just want to pass this message. We can be all our identities and not feel we have to dispose of anyone. And that we can create the spaces that we're looking for.

[00:44:17] And we can be the ancestors we've always wanted. that's where I'm landing. And I really feel that for my community.

[00:44:23] **Jean:** This is Jane. I really feel next generation. What? I'm still young. It don't count me out yet is what I'm thinking. But I do recognize that there are people younger than myself and to those people. We're all in this together. I think one amazing thing about this, these spaces that we cultivate within that cafe.

[00:44:43] And I think really the reputation is that we're very a, multi-generational we don't leave people out. within even planning meetings, there's, there's so much conversation about yeah. How can we be as genuine, as authentic as [00:45:00] considerate of all people as we can. Oh, the human, the planning, the organizing is done in a, such a, a deeply empathetic way where it's always about how do we open the space?

[00:45:09] How do we include more? And I really feel that is the vibe that is needed. I think I had to work with the very amazing, beautifully gifted, amazing young people of color. In terms of knowledge, production, in terms of awareness in terms of political education, I think it's people really have that young people have that.

[00:45:30] I think what is important, what I really learned through to QT that space. It's honestly empathy and compassion and not to say that, I was those qualities didn't exist before, but I think organizing with compassion, organizing in a deeply empathetic way, those are the things I really learned from this space.

[00:45:50] And it's so different, here in the bay area, there's a budget and orgs. There are so many orgs out there who do really amazing [00:46:00] work, but I think the reason that in spite of that, why I have still continue to go on, it was still very dedicated to just keep it speaks of style, even within so many amazing movement, organizers and leaders.

[00:46:16] There's something very special about this type of space. I really feel part of the energy that I want to move forward towards prep people or younger people who, who would stand to learn something is really how to organize in a way where it's not exhaustive, where it's really something where you can really honestly, truly look to the people that you organize with and really feel this is my people.

[00:46:42] They have my back. I can really depend on them for everything, even if it's just I need to talk to someone about something , it's really, it really feels that. I don't want to I don't want to say family cause family has traumatized me, but maybe my family should be, yeah, I'll, I'll end on that. But yeah, I really appreciate being a part [00:47:00] of this space. I'll check here.

[00:47:02] **Ai:** Hi, this is I, and thinking about the circle and cubit cafe six years from now really excites me, of course, you're right. I want everyone here to be a primary liar, six years from now. And I want my relationships with everyone here to grow and be deeper. And, I feel I'm still getting to know everyone and it's.

[00:47:26] It's great because I feel you're still writing the way that everyone relates to each other here is so receptive and open and inviting. And it's not exhausting at all. W when we meet and keep in touch and check in with each other, because we were so intentional and yeah, we hold each other's so nicely, I feel, and we give each other a push and encourage each other.

[00:47:56] And I learned so much from everyone all the [00:48:00] time. It feels everyone has so much to offer. And I really think when we come together to make an offering to the greater public, people are in awe, as they should, as they should, where you're incredible and I want, and that's the way I felt as, I guess the one who is one of the younger members of the collective, meeting older, queer VIT folks has been really eyeopening and yeah, incredibly inspiring.

[00:48:34] And I can only hope to be that inspiration for the next generation that come, it gets me excited to think about

[00:48:43] older, older, older, wiser. wiser.

[00:48:47] **Phoebe:** Yeah. This is Phoebe speaking. Yeah, I think this question is really interesting. It asks you to look six years in the future. And it's also I'm one of the youngest members in the circle. I remember when I was just 20 or something. And now my [00:49:00] 23. And I think about when you asked me to try to time travel into the future, I'm also, time-traveling in the past too.

[00:49:05] And that's if you asked me six years ago where I would be at 17 until 23, I was , wow, I'm with QT Vic effective. And that's how I want to be at another six years too. I think something that I really take away from keep it at bay is the proverb of Oop, young , which is when you drink water, we never this force.

[00:49:23] And when you eat fruit, we never retreat. And we use this to connect to the ass to our ancestors back then, but I'm thinking about the third and fourth generation of enemies, people. A different phrase, but very similar to connect to us specifically this generation. I don't know. What's the next phrase, what it'd be , but I'm pretty sure I'd be pretty funny.

[00:49:41] And interesting. And I'm thinking about the future generation who will come in a full force of oh, it's difficult to balance tradition and that now. And that's okay too. You can create whatever fitness you want. You don't have to feel you're not fit enough because you will always be good enough.

[00:49:58] And I want the, I [00:50:00] want some, some days I want to ask me , oh boy, Paki, let's go. Now at my one August shot and that one street on district two of it, mom, it's let's go. So it's a funny question that. English.

[00:50:13] **trang:** Yeah, let's make all of that happen. I'm remembering I read when you jokes around and you told me, it's I feel you just make the spaces that you want, or you need to.

[00:50:26] Yeah.

[00:50:31] I feel that's my , course for myself. It's I think what I want. And and also maybe for, if you are, maybe you can relate in some way. It's yeah. We create or I think coming to accepting that, self-love and self-compassionate needs and creating the space that I can.

[00:50:50] Feel fully seen, fully love being able to experience all the joy and playfulness, right? And along with all the hardships that come up, being able to [00:51:00] also feel , yeah, there are a community with me, all around. And I definitely want that to be something that pushed me, continued to push me six different, but also wanting to pass that, being able to invite that energy for the younger generation as well.

[00:51:17] It's the space, I feel the cubic collective space is yes, this unique to us. And it's also been creative before with the different generations. Right. And it's a continuation. So it's being able to offer this continuation to the next generation, whatever that feel fits for them.

[00:51:32] However that, relate to them in that time and space and knowing that it's possible it's create something new, something that, only them can create something that we continue to create for ourselves. So shout out to Irene, you always say it's somewhat of a Rosemont.

[00:51:49] I'm just , show you how amazing you are.

[00:51:59] You're tuned into [00:52:00] parts express 94.1 KPFA 89.3. KPCC in Berkeley and online at KPMG. Thank you to Phoebe Irene, Jean aye, and Paige. What joining us and Jen today for sharing so much wisdom. If you want to grow alongside us, join us today. You can follow us on Instagram at cubit cath Fe and find us at cubit cafe that com please check out our website, K P F e.org to find out more about QDB Catholic collective.

[00:52:38] Thank you page for doing all of the incredible background tech work that's considered to organize and get free together. It's a spreadsheet is produced by Nicoli. So Lena Keon Lee and page tonight shows was posted by saying and eight things to the team at KPF for the support [00:53:00] have great night.

[00:53:00] **opening:** Apex express Asian Pacific expression.

[00:53:19] Unity and cultural coverage, music and calendar, new visions, and voices coming to you with Asian Pacific Islander point of view. It's time to get on board the apex express.

[00:55:33] [00:54:00] [00:55:00]

[00:55:33] Express

[00:55:37] **opening:** Apex express Asian Pacific expression.

[00:55:56] Unity and cultural coverage, music and calendar, new visions, [00:56:00] and voices coming to you with Asian Pacific Islander point of view. It's time to get on board the apex express.[00:57:00] [00:58:00]