

AUNT CHLOE

AUGUST 17, 2019

WOMXN IS BLACK

Editor's Note

the issue that expands our reach...

I came to Spelman College in 2016 in hopes of becoming a serious writer. I thought writing novels was revolutionary; the fact that Toni Morrison's *Paradise* was banned from Texas prisons in 1998 because, according to officials, "it threatened to incite revolt among inmates" inspired me to refocus my writing on the narratives of marginalized peoples. So, like many young, inexperienced, eager writers, I sought what I believed would make writing books easiest: a degree in English. Later in my first year, I changed my major to Comparative Women's Studies after the Honors Program director, Opal Moore, made me aware of *Aunt Chloe*. She listened to my story, saw my passion for social justice and writing, and motivated me to break out of the traditional literary form and explore alternative sites of literary revolution. The editor-in-chief at the time, Skylar Mitchell, introduced me to *Aunt Chloe* as a platform for young black writers, and she encouraged me to bring my experience as a black, queer writer to the reformation of *Aunt Chloe*.

As the current editor-in-chief, I continue the legacy of *Aunt Chloe* as a literary journal for and by black artists across all identities, but just as our society is ever-evolving, so is our journal. Our theme, "Womxn is Black," means that we seek material that uses linguistic revolution to reinforce *Aunt Chloe*'s mission and unify the creative works of womxn across social and political dimensions. The "x" is intersectionality. It represents the void where the presence of truth should be. It demonstrates inclusivity, resistance to binary thought, and commitment to the defense of artistic expression.

Our new group of editors, the Aunt Chloe Collective, is pleased to introduce readers to the inaugural online release of *Aunt Chloe: A Journal of Artful Candor*. "Womxn is Black" marks *Aunt Chloe*'s transition from a print journal to a website that will reach countless minds and serve as an alternative site of artistic revolution. With this digital medium, we open up *Aunt Chloe* as a way for artists to publish their work in various and experimental forms, while being in conversation with contemporary political, social, and economic struggles, and other revolutionary ideas.

I am inspired by a lineage of Spelman students who have dedicated their energy to the defense of artistic expression—those who have been influenced by *Paradise* banned, who have filled denied space and crossed out mistakes in imperialist language, so that “X” marks linguistic revolution. And I am grateful to be a part of that lineage along with the black womxn writers who impacted this journal.

We dedicate this issue to the late Toni Morrison, as we inherit the measure of her life through art.

With Love,

Cylantra Dees