

# AUNT CHLOE

2020 ISSUE YEAR

## About...

### *Aunt Chloe: A Journal of Artful Candor*

...and how the Chloes came together

*Aunt Chloe* is an artistic response to absence of truth—to any void in the representation of our narratives. Historically grounded in artist-activism, *Aunt Chloe* is situated at the crux of every social justice movement—bound by its mission of reclaiming the time and space that Black women have been denied. What began as a Spelman College literary magazine called *Focus* (published from the 1960's until the late 2000's) metamorphosed into *Aunt Chloe* in 2009, when its editor-in-chief, Kyla Marshell, conjured the legacies of two Black women who share the name Chloe: the character Aunt Chloe in Frances Ellen Watkins Harper's 1872 poem, "Aunt Chloe's Politics," and Chloe Anthony Wofford (born Chloe Ardelia Wofford), also known as Toni Morrison. Kyla renamed the journal as a tribute to them, inspired by former *Focus* editor Chantal James's suggestion that its new name be that of a woman and include "Aunt" (an honorific title for these ancestors). Chloe means "green shoot" or "blossoming," as Kyla discovered. With the journal now on an online platform, those connotations again seem particularly relevant. *Aunt Chloe* continues to blossom. We are excited to expand our reach, furthering the vision of the editors and contributors who curated the journal before us, as we continue to claim and enlarge the spaces within which to create and narrate Black women's lives.

### *About this Issue: A Note From the Collective*

*Aunt Chloe* represents our story. When future generations read this issue, they will be reminded once more that Black artists were never quiet...that we will not be silenced...because they will see our unwavering fight against attacks that were meant to destroy us, whether unprecedented pandemics or a nation dependent on our oppression.

*Aunt Chloe* is, therefore, a testament of our quest for agency and freedom—and making space for those voices that amplify it...represented here in the words, images, and music of numerous writers, artists, poets, and photographers, some being published for the first time.

This year has tested our resilience, our resourcefulness, and our perseverance.

This issue will stand as one of the beautiful triumphs within the turbulence of the trials of 2020.

*The 2020 Editorial Collective*

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