

THE HEALING COLLECTIVE

Resource Library



\*\*\* Catalog Guide \*\*\*\*\*

This library (in both physical & digital forms) is meant to highlight the voices, experiences & legacies of Black women's thought & labor. In our collection, we pay specific attention to the Combahee River Collective & the work of Black queer folks. Essential, are the multiple lineages of Black feminist thought from Harriet Tubman & Patricia Smith to Omise'ke Natasha Tinsley & Julie Dash.

\*\*\* This library is meant to be added to & amended.  
folks can add/request new  
resources for  
this collection \*\*\*

~~Single & Book Edition~~

Suggestions for  
use & distribution

1. Library (in both physical & digital forms) is meant

- \* browse through cards in catalog & take a text out. Read it in a space you feel good in. return the book & write a note on the card (thoughts, love, etc.)
- \* go to the digital resource library (on the Buntington College library website) & see what movies, music or online resources. Share, watch & listen with folks you feel safe with
- \* let everyone know the library is here!!
- \* Add materials you feel you need
- \* Add your own work around Black feminism

xoxo,

The Healing Collective

### Single Author Book: Fiction

The author within this section are multi-faceted, not just limited to writing fiction; within this work, they explore identity categories of race, gender, and queerness. These works address, and practice, ways to fragment narrative form, relationships to time and history, and relationships to violence. We choose writers like Dionne Brand, who writes of landscape, history, and relationships between women; Toni Morrison, who explores mythology and historical presences; and, Zora Neale



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Hurstons, who thinks about the dynamics of  
certain free black communities. Many books  
in this collection offer ways to rethink  
narrative structures and devices so that  
Black women can address their own image  
histories, and relationships.

### Single Author Books: Non-fiction

These works of non-fiction focus on Black women's collectivities, bringing together seemingly disparate practices; these texts center literature as a way to envision/imagine Black women's lives, histories, foodways, and religious thought. Ultimately, these texts theorize upon Black women's histories/stories. By providing these texts that center intimate inquiries/practices, we also seek to decenter particular narratives of Black women as only caretakers; and instead, re-invigorate the conceptions of care for ourselves.

### Anthologies

Within this project, the Healing Collective is engaging in a practice of articulating the work of Black women as vital ways of thinking and being. These works inherently speak to a relationality/conversation between Black women. These anthologies also speak to the multiple ways Black women have challenged "feminism" and advanced Black radical politics. The anthology, *But Some of Us Are Brave* (ed. Hull, Bell-Scott, and Smith), speaks to this intervention directly and shares a dearth of resources throughout the anthology (including a bibliography on Black Feminist Thought). We build on the creation of these central houses of information by providing anthologies that have advanced and broadened the work of these editors across the gender spectrum and across the African Diaspora.

### Essays

This collection digs deep into various understandings and formulations of Black feminism, and Black women's thought. They challenge the categories of "woman" and "queer" to imagine and create Black female subjectivities--and practices of care/survival/intimacy--beyond Euro-American frameworks of gender and queer theory. These texts also present new frames with which to imagine "feminism." Our choice of essays ultimately places our own connections to Black women's praxis within this work.



## ZINES

The Healing Collective was informed, in part, by creating a zini called: "Salvation is the issue: a self-care zini for women of color." The work of creating & distributing zines has been another way to think through tangible processes of ritual & care. We have found & collected zines, chapbooks, & welcome other zines from PoC. (specifically, recipes, rituals, guides, poetry)

## Cookbooks

Toni Tipton-Martin has done a significant amount of labor to archive the contributions of Black cooks to the U.S. food landscape in her book *The Jemima Code: Two Centuries of African American Cookbooks*. Much of her work highlights the labor of black women specifically in defining mechanisms & modes of cultural and physical survival through recipes (some of which have been recorded, others of which have not).

### Art Books

In their work, *The Black Female Body: A Photographic History*, Deborah Willis and Carla Williams explore how Black female-identified bodies have been portrayed throughout the history of photography. Their work is integral in understanding the ways in which Black women have had limited autonomy over their own images. However, the artists in this collection seek to re-imagine images of, and for, Black women. Many of these artists explore lineage, gender, and landscape through multiple mediums. We ask that this section is not only filled with contemporary artists in conversation with larger social and political landscapes, but also students of color at Bennington who are still in the process of articulating their work.

### "THE KITCHEN"

THE KITCHEN IS THE MOST IMPORTANT  
ROOM IN MY HOME. IT'S

THE PLACE FROM WHICH I DO MY THINKING.  
I EAT IN THE KITCHEN.

WHEN FRIENDS DROP IN SOMETIMES  
WE NEVER LEAVE THE KITCHEN.

I JUST DO EVERYTHING IN THE KITCHEN.  
I WROTE THIS BOOK IN THE KITCHEN.

WHEN I SEW I SET UP THE SEWING  
MACHINE IN THE KITCHEN.

I IRON IN THE KITCHEN.

THE OTHER DAY I TRIED TO MOVE  
THE PIANO IN BUT COULDN'T GET  
ANYONE TO HELP ME.

THE CHILDREN DO THEIR WORK IN  
THE KITCHEN.

SOMETIMES THERE IS SO MUCH HAPPENING  
IN THE KITCHEN



### Online Resources

These online resources address the larger, incredibly various, practices of Black feminism. Many of the resources here are in conversation with the zines available in the library. Resources range between podcasts, videos, organizations and articles. These resources represent the work of Black women and nonbinary folk as ongoing and intersectional. Through these resources, we recognize that the role of Healing Justice work is responsive and coming from multiple contexts outside (but inclusive) of our own.

### Music

Music plays a liberatory role in the Healing Collective, providing a space for members to lift up their voice and showcase the Black feminist texts that are dear to us. The artists and albums included in this resource library provides the same liberatory expression in the lyrics and within the harmony and melodies. The artists included in this library are not only skilled musicians who possess an intuitive rhythm which makes listening to their music a healing experience. These artists also make work in conversation with contemporary Black feminist thought.



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### Films, Television and Web-series

Moving image allows for a greater reach of representation and exposure of Black feminist practices. These films and shows provide relief from the daily traumas endured, in the form of entertainment. Julia Roxanne Wallace, creator of the Black Feminist Film School describes the process: To name oneself a Black Feminist Filmmaker is to embrace this responsibility [of realizing collective well-being] which also means becoming a mediator between worlds to strengthen the drain and threatened life-force of the community."

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Single Author Books: Poetry

highlighting a diverse array of Black women's poetic voices shows our engagement with nature, history, & language itself through bodily experience, memory, & voice. These poets engage with multiple archives - account for / address gaps - bodily, textual, recorded, oral. The array of poets in this collection do not carry a singular aesthetic; but write to survival practice and, to the existence of multiple poetics within a history of not being seen as poets.



to date, there are no Black lesbian anthologies of poetry. Well-known Black lesbian poets include:

Audre Lorde, Cheryl Clarke & Pat Parker.

While this section readily recognizes poetic foremothers from the 70s & 80s, we also seek to provide openings for Black queer poets.

Alexis Pauline Gumbs affirms these contributions in her collection of poetry, Spill, which

draws heavily on Hortense Spillers. Calling back to these poets helps us find ways to expand, challenge, & speak to these writings for ourselves.