



# HAITIANS in EVANSVILLE for REDRESS of EMANCIPATION



"[Insurrection] would be the shedding of those identities, the breaking down of those borders...forging a link between the mythic and the political, the eternity of an immobile time and the contingency of history."

-...*Revolutionary Horizons Since the Uprising*

The neighborhood that our housing projects is in, Boxtown, has been an illegal multiracial area since its establishment. An IU paper from 1915 advocated for the demolition of most of the neighborhood. Our first house was built in the 1890's. We will make real the freedoms capitalism declares unlivable, and the "we" will be the differences in its self; free to be different than who we are alone, by being in a place together, in many times.

ISIT-H.E.R.E

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"System collapse increasingly intersects with organized abandonment."

– *Lifehouse*

Adam Greenfield writes in *Lifehouse*, that we must learn to use that which has been abandoned and discarded by capitalism. H.E.R.E. is an effort to organize refuse, but also has functioned as a form of abandon and refusal of capitalist progress-via-accumulation, rather seeking out a terrain of approximation. A 16 year project among comrades in Evansville Indiana to collectively purchase houses in the same neighborhood, extended collective ownership to Haitian immigrants. The designs accompanying the text of this zine are mostly old flooring and wallpaper uncovered during remodel- a beauty abandoned beneath layers of attempts at improvement, rediscovered by our attempt.



"Every decision we make needs to enable us to have more self determination."

-*Building a Solidarity Economy*

H.E.R.E.'s U.S. born participants have sponsored the immigration of their neighbor's family members and paid to have *Inhabit* translated into kryol. H.E.R.E. has sent money to Cuban comrades and financed the translation of one of their books. We are planning a trip to Puerto Rico to meet with participants of the CAMs-a popular mutual aid initiative, and participants in Urbeapie- a squatting movement; while trying to make relationships there that can aid in shipments of materials to Haiti. We have met with nonprofits doing work on the border in Mexico to build relationships with folks interested in our model well in advance of their arrival in Evansville. We have sent money to Kurdish and Palestinian solidarity projects "because statelessness is something [that must be shared]."





H.E.R.E., in collaboration with the prison abolition group Focus Initiative, the worker's coop Autonomous Spaces Cooperative, as well as the mutual aid logistics provider Distribute Aid – has been developing a social center (The Warren) and an adjacent community garden, Vlangbendang Garden. The black, red, and gold color scheme of the building was chosen because they are the colors of the book *Common Wind* by Julius Scott. *Common Wind* chronicles a history of how circulation and communication across class, continents, and criminality allowed revolutionaries to conspire in informal and simultaneous currents in and against capitalist forces. This is our intention with the social space, for it to be an eddy of multiple currents as opposed to a diversion to a separate body.



Recognition of what has been abandoned and what possibilities are latent in relating to them, is at least in part an aesthetic effort.

H.E.R.E. has facilitated the purchase of three houses with our Haitian neighbors. We commissioned paintings of these houses from a comrade in New Orleans, who, at the time, was living at a collective house there that was secured after first being squatted post hurricane Katrina.

Each painting was of the houses during rehab, and came with the note, "Nou te pataje travay la" (we shared the work). "The work" has included interpersonal disputes, mediating police encounters, and working around restrictions of medical institutions. These are all activities folks in the housing collective already do for each other and our neighbors generally.





"Revolutionary praxis is not "Bad Support".  
-*Hologram*

In the text on revolutionary care, *Hologram*, the authors define "Bad Support" as versions of false promises and unfulfillable commitments. H.E.R.E. has committed to world changing revolutionary aspirations at the proximity to fetid detritus. A proximity of limitation and insufficiency, of precarious support and the liminal contiguity of impossible timelines- always now and in every other time. These are spaces that can not be clearly imagined and must be ritualistically reconfigured.



" The old nation-state form has never been realized for many- and never will be."  
-*Towards Another Shape of This World*

Haitian history arrives in Evansville to a future that precedes it. The Haitian revolution is the "only successful slave revolt to establish an independent nation". In the second Haitian constitution, in the fourteenth amendment, it declares that all Haitian citizens "are black"- this included even the Caucasian residents. But the independence and racial equality has never been realized as citizenship, but rather found its embodied elaboration in the maroon refusal of borders and identities.