

LA festival: zines are the tech we need now

Zine culture might seem an odd fit for the tech sector. But one LA-based crew see radical potential in the pairing. Together they organize Tiny Tech Zines. The organizers aim to use the zine fair to support emerging and marginalized tech workers especially.

“There are a lot of important conversations and new voices,” says TTZ organizer Rachel Simanjuntak. She says an outpouring of community enthusiasm validated the need for the zine fest. “Our responsibility was to make a loving, thoughtful space for them.”

But why go lo-fi in response to high tech? TTZ’s Tyler Yin says that for one, print can disrupt suffocating online echo chambers.

“You could easily be missing out on varying perspectives,” Yin says of digital discourse. For him, and in-person print-centric event allows underrepresented creators and tech workers to bridge those different lived experiences.

Organizer Tristan Espinoza challenges the very premise of high vs. low. After all, zines are technology too.

“Part of why we are using zines is to flatten hierarchies and expand people’s ideas of technology beyond screens.” Visit tiny-techzines.org. (Stefanie Ucci)

PRINT’S NEW HOME FOR RURAL LESBIANS

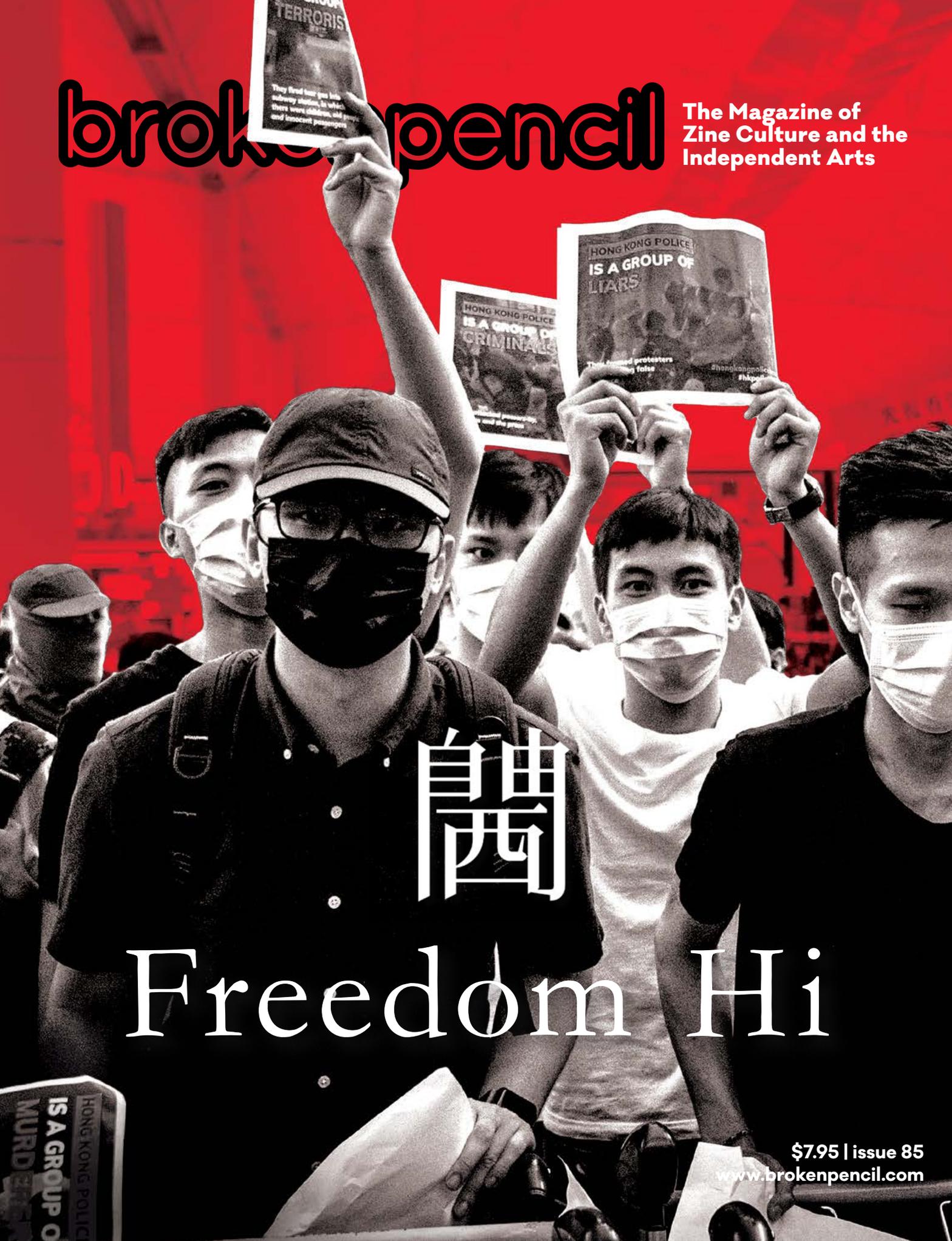
Urban centres are known hubs for LGBTQ+ people. But what about those who can’t or don’t want to live in the city? For many small town queers, rural living is equally crucial to who they are. But being so far-flung, country queers can’t always find each other.

WMN Zine is here to help. Founded by Florencia Alvarado, Jeanette Spicer, and Sara Duell, the project gathers voices of lesbians from remote or less populated areas, who typically have few opportunities to share their work. The creators write that they chose print for the project so it could “reach audiences that it otherwise may not,” adding that social media algorithms can be a barrier. “The zine’s physicality is used as an access point.”

WMN Zine Issue 1: Seasons of a Dyke comes out this Fall. Learn how to get involved at wmn-zine.com. (Stefanie Ucci)

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