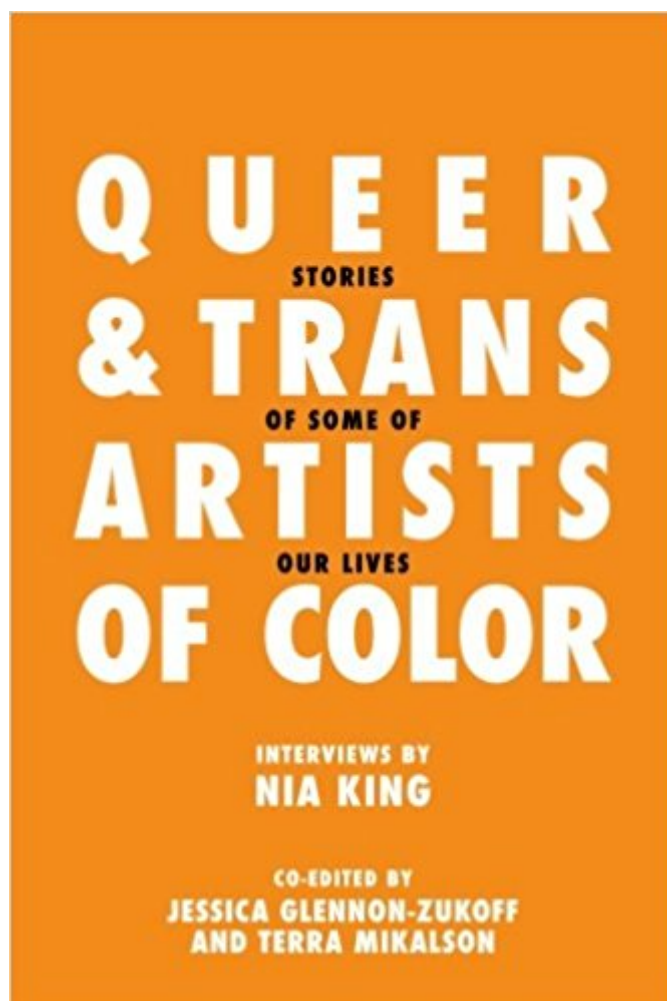




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Queer And Trans Artists Of Color: Stories Of Some Of Our Lives



Synopsis

A collection of sixteen unique and honest conversations you won't read anywhere else...

Mixed-race queer art activist Nia King left a full-time job in an effort to center her life around making art. Grappling with questions of purpose, survival, and compromise, she started a podcast called *We Want the Airwaves* in order to pick the brains of fellow queer and trans artists of color about their work, their lives, and making it - both in terms of success and in terms of survival. In this collection of interviews, Nia discusses fat burlesque with Magnolia Black, queer fashion with Kiam Marcelo Junio, interning at Playboy with Janet Mock, dating gay Latino Republicans with Julio Salgado, intellectual hazing with Kortney Ryan Ziegler, gay gentrification with Van Binfu, getting a book deal with Virgie Tovar, the politics of black drag with Micia Mosely, evading deportation with Yosimar Reyes, weird science with Ryka Aoki, gay public sex in Africa with Nick Mwaluko, thin privilege with Fabian Romero, the tyranny of self-care with Lovemore Corazon, selling out with Miss Persia and Daddie\$ Plastik, the self-employed art activist hustle with Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarsinha, and much, much more. Welcome to the future of QPOC art activism.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Nia King is a mixed Black queer writer, illustrator, podcaster and filmmaker living in Oakland, CA. Her writing about race, gender, and sexuality has been published in the journal *Women and Performance*, the book *Zines in Third Space*, and the magazine *make/shift*. Her comics have been featured in *Colorlines*, *Interrupt Mag*, and in the *Ladydrawers* exhibition "Sex. Money. Race. Gender." Her film, *The Craigslist Chronicles*, has screened at the National Queer Arts Festival,

Queer Women of Color Film Festival, York University, University of Toronto, and NYU. She currently hosts and produces the podcast *We Want the Airwaves*, on which she interviews queer and trans artists of color about their lives and their work. artactivistnia.com

5 stars will read the second volume as well. Takes a while to read since its all interviews. Still great.

A fan of the King's podcast, this breakthrough text gives insight into the mind of contemporary QT artists/activist of color.

This book is a very good read. The interviews were well-conducted and informative; I was exposed to a wide variety of perspectives with the QTPOC community, and I found a lot of new artists to look into. I think, however, this book currently serves people who are already moderately informed on the issues at hand; for example, although I'm decently familiar with queer terminology, the interviews regarding undocumented immigration left me feeling like I didn't really know enough to fully appreciate what the artist was thinking. I wish there was a 'Resources' section of some sort that mentioned some reliable sites for learning more about the major issues discussed in the interviews.

In *Queer and Trans Artists of Color: Stories of Some of Our Lives* and in her podcast, *We Want the Airwaves*, Nia King has done the life-saving work of documenting the stories of queer and trans people of color, in our own words. In this book, you will find stories of border crossing and burlesque, abuse and healing, humor and resilience. Queer artists of color talk with Nia King about how they express their lives through fashion design, technology, poetry, theatre, and drag performance and how they make a living from doing it, or from hustling on the side. *Queer and Trans Artists of Color* is highly recommended to anyone who cares about art, social movements, and liberation. King has shown the power and importance of marginalized communities archiving history on their own terms, and by collecting these interviews, she has written down the stories of the next generation's ancestors.

There's so much wisdom here and so much advice for other artists. I appreciate Nia's attention to behind-the-scenes stuff like paying transcribers to create access and running edited transcripts by interviewees for approval. This book took me a long time to read because there was so much wonderful stuff to take it, and I quoted from it extensively in my journal. I particularly love the interviews with Ryka Aoki, Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha, and Lovemme "Love" Corazn.

Ryka Aoki discusses the value of an MFA in terms that helped me think through getting one for myself, as well as channeling fear and the politics of mixed-genre writing. Leah talks beautifully about community and politicized art spaces. I love seeing their connections with other artists through quotes and discussion of her mentor. Love Coraz n has great insights about multi-genre writing, communal care, and leaving evidence. I love this collection and I can't wait for the second book of interviews.

After hearing various podcasts led by King, and reading this text, I have an admiration for how King gently teases out the questions pertinent to each artists' practice, motivation and context. Here there is an ease of understanding and depth of exploration that many other interviewers and conversations do not reach, especially when subjects are being tokenised, rather than appreciated as a complex artist. This is definitely comprehensive, essential reading for any Gender Studies or Post-Colonial Studies curriculum, and for related Sociology and Cultural Studies programs. The multitude of perspectives and open inquiry ensure the avoidance of dominance from a single voice or author. Marginalised populations are not being "represented" here, the content comes directly from themselves. Additionally, the conversations are accessible and compelling, not limiting to an academic lexicon.

This is an incredible book! I would recommend it to any queer and/or trans artist of color for inspiration on how to survive in the art world, how to make money as an artist or while becoming established as one, and for the general stories and wisdoms that many folks have to share. This book is rich with stories. I can guarantee that you will walk away refreshed, hopeful, and with new knowledge on how to craft your art or life to be more authentic and fulfilling.

I've been a fan of Nia's podcast (and her own personal work) since I met her at Brooklyn Zine Fest last year. This book is interviews transcribed from her podcast. It is as brilliant, beautiful, and diverse as the people being interviewed. There is at least a nugget of good advice or insight in each of these interviews that most people will relate to and several of them will either inspire you to look the artist up or to create something amazing of your own.

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