

To practice falling in love with a world we don't yet inhabit
 To engage in radical hope
 To embrace the play of ideas
 To banish despair
 To practice being someone else and living in many skins
 To spark insight
 To focus and meditate and engage in slow thinking
 To commune with the ancestors
 To make that way out of no way

To sustain our spirits and challenge our thoughts
 To delight in our humanity and commune with the folks
 we agree and disagree with
 To have laugh out loud fun
 To remember what we dare not forget
 To engage in play
 To time travel
 To gain empathy
 To imagine what we would never have imagined

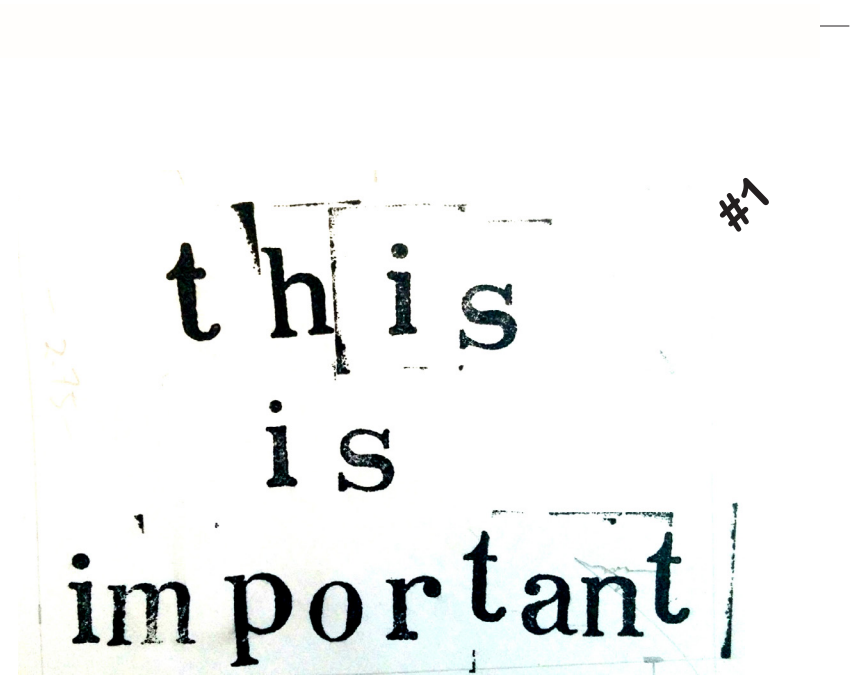
SO WHY READ A BOOK?
 A Reminder List—please add to it:

SO GO OUT AND BUY THESE BOOKS.
 Spread the word! Boost the signal!

- The Waterdancer's World by L. Timmel Duchamp**
- The Obelisk Gate by N. K. Jemisin**
- When The World Wounds by Kiini Ibura Salaam**
- Everfair by Nisi Shawl**
- Sleeping Under the Tree of Life by Sheree Renee Thomas**

Buy these books from the publishers and/or get them at a local bookstore or borrow them from a library.

This is also an invitation to support Independent Presses like Aqueduct Press (<http://www.aqueductpress.com/>) and Small Beer (<http://smallbeerpress.com/>) who always let us feast our minds! Buy any of their books. Right now!



The Hopi say: the one who tells the stories rules the world.

In the weeks since the presidential election, I have spoken to many artists who worry that they are insignificant in these trying times. In the furor of the moment, we might forget that democracy requires citizens who understand the narratives of their nation, of the world.

Take Back The Narrative (Ongoing Action)
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The marvelous Nalo Hopkinson recently encouraged a group of us (artists) to embrace the complexity of who we are in order to be ready for change. To do that in an age of sound bite/Twitter simplicity, we must find elegant modes to disrupt myopic, fast thinking. We must make slow thinking pleasurable. READ A BOOK! Go to a play or a concert! Focus on the work people are doing. Turn off the toxicity.

Reading a book is not the instant miracle that will dissolve horror with a click. Like theatre, reading a book is a rehearsal of the possible. Reading a book requires slow thinking. We will need slow thinking to meet the challenges of the next few years. So train up. READ A BOOK!

Reading neuroscience, I learn that our brains are set to amplify the bad, dangerous, awful things. The Internet can become a horror echo chamber, preying on our propensity to notice the negative, like the weather channel always featuring the mega-storms coming to devastate us. We can so easily lose perspective and flounder in a spectacularly awful moment, however—

Meanness does not have a mandate.

We are the flesh of our ancestors and of our great, great, great grandchildren. We are never alone in this difficult now. We make the world with our thoughts and our passions. Stories are sacred time machines connecting us to one another.