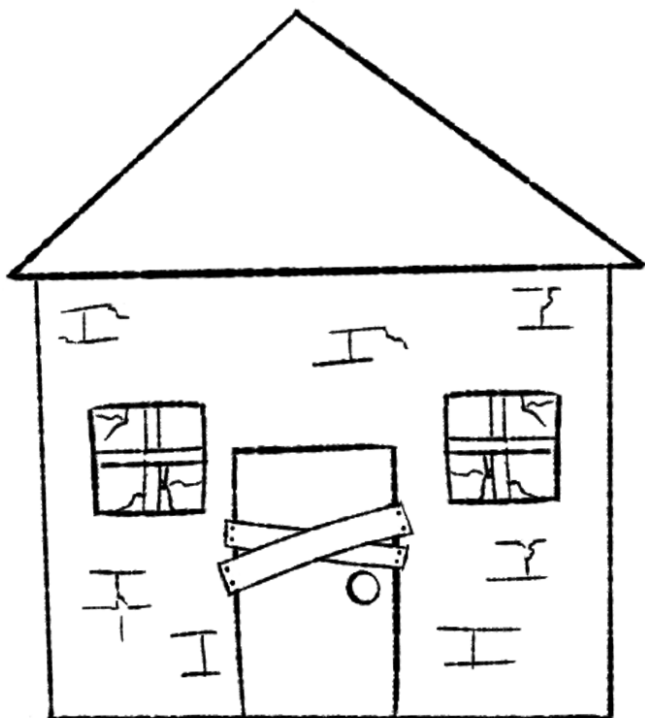


Evicted

Bea Malossini and Gray Schwab



A zine about homelessness

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Artists' Statements



Gray Schwab

My pieces in this are created to represent the harsh experiences of homelessness. The barebones organization is intentional- this zine tries to express the emptiness and difficulties so prevalently associated with the issue of homelessness. The simplicity is there to evoke these feelings and compliment the gloom written into our poems. I took inspiration from Nikki Giovanni's writing style in my poetry, using short lines that are often interrupted to convey a clear and complete message. The art piece represents the hope that still burns even within desperate situations like homelessness. The zine intends to send a strong, complex message through a simple medium.



Bea Malossini

My art represents the housing crisis and the realities of homelessness. My art piece was a representation of the poverty and famine in the Soviet Union at the time of the writing of "A Cloud in Trousers." It shows the harsh living conditions that many had to endure during and before the revolution. My poem was based off of the poet Alice Walker whom we learned about in class. He tendency to tell the reader what to do in a rough and blunt way interested me. The zine was written and formatted simply and without flashy imagery to give a tone of importance in the words and art inside and not the design as much.



Helping Homelessness

Every year, 3 million people in the US experience some level of homelessness. This is a massive problem with solutions that must be put in place. So, why is this happening? For one, there are fewer places with affordable rent, and more people to compete for affordable rent. Rent is consistently increasing over the years. This issue especially affects certain groups, such as ex-prisoners and children aging out of foster care. (Monga and Griffin). On top of the numerous issues (including deaths) associated with homelessness, it is highly stigmatized. (Homelessness and Human Rights). This makes it difficult for those experiencing homelessness to get help. This may sound hopeless, but there are options and solutions available.



So, what is being done by the US government? Many states are incorporating both permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing programs, which provide housing, financial support, and mental health support. Finding the most vulnerable populations and addressing those specific issues is another focus of state. (Monga and Griffin) The federal government spends billions of dollars to house people and families, as well as providing support to populations like youth and the mentally ill or those dealing with addiction. Preventing homelessness rather than dealing with the consequences of it is, in the end, in the financial interests of the government. (Monga and Griffin)

What *can* we be doing? While the government is working on solutions, it obviously has a long ways to go considering the amount of people still experiencing homelessness. One obvious suggestion is to simply help make housing more affordable. This way, it will be rarer that someone gets into a situation where they are struggling for work for housing in the first place. (Prevent Homelessness). Some other general ideas are to make healthcare, childcare, education and employment more available. These all dig at the root problem: paying to live costs more and more and is becoming less sustainable. Some more specific suggestions include supporting families themselves and education of children (Prevent Homelessness). Overall, there are a lot of ways that we can help with this big problem.



Do Something About It

Bea Malossini

* * *
* *
Abandoned *
Druggies Dropouts Drunks
Nobody knows what they were like before.
Some fought in your wars
Some were thrown out by your laws
And yet you sneer in disgust
Veterans are only respected if they have a home?
Don't call it a crisis. Do something about it
There are empty houses and homeless
Do something about it
Food waste and the hungry
Do something about it

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Vladimir Mayakovsky

Vladimir Mayakovsky was a Soviet Russian poet, writer, playwright, artist, and actor. He was born in Banghati, Russia July 19, 1893 . His father died when he was young and he was a large figure in the Russian revolution. He was detained and jailed many times for his behavior and was the most prominent radical poet of the time of the revolution. He wrote some of his work in solitary confinement. He kept making powerful political poetry throughout his life. He fell in love with a refugee in Paris leading to one of his most famous poems about love and struggles of refugees. And when he was refused by her in his advances he went back to Moscow, later to commit suicide. In 1930 after his death Joseph Stalin made a speech about him naming him the most dynamic figure in Soviet literature. He died at age 36.

“Art must not be concentrated in dead shrines called museums. It must be spread everywhere - on the streets, in the trams, factories, workshops, and in the workers' homes.”



Excerpt from the poem "A Cloud in Trousers"

And you were stolen.

In love, I shall gamble again,
the arch of my brows ablaze.

What of it!

Homeless tramps often find
shelter in a burnt-out house!

You're teasing me now?

You have fewer emeralds of madness
than a beggar has kopeks!

But remember!

When they teased Vesuvius,
Pompeii perished!

Hey!

Gentlemen!

Amateurs

of sacrilege,

crime,

and carnage,

have you seen

the terror of terrors "C

my face



She is not concrete
Not metal or gray or
Dull, dark hues

She is meant for sharing
And love
And joy

Not rainy nights
Out in the cold

She is the sun

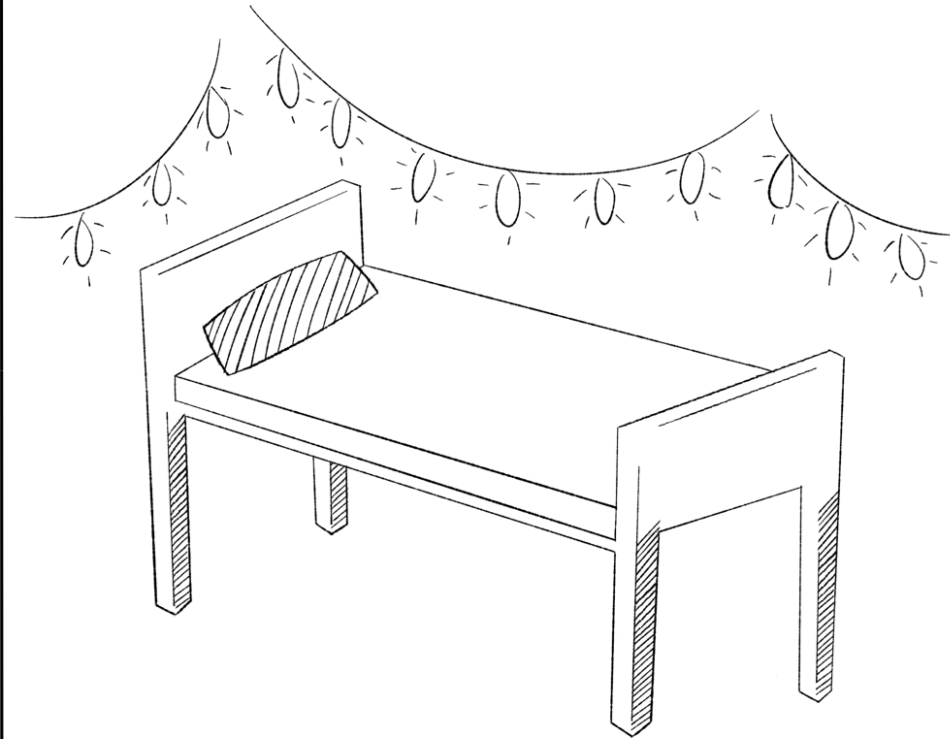
She is in love with the world
If it could only
Love her back

She is not meant for an empty crowded room
She is not meant for cold, hard
Manufactured cots

But she still laughs
For the lonely eyes
She is still warm
For every missing roof
And blanket

She creates
Her home

Light In



The Dark

Gray Schwab

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Contributors

Bea Malossini is a student at Science Leadership Academy at Beeber in Philadelphia. He wanted to write about the issue of homelessness because it is common in his city of Philadelphia. While this isn't something he has experienced personally, he has much sympathy for those affected by homelessness and concern for the governments role in ending it.

Gray Schwab is a student at the same school. They care deeply about social justice and want to spread information on the issue of homelessness. They want to make a change in their own city, but also the country.