

Asexual and Aromantic: Exploring Life Alone but Not Lonely

Description

The Autoethnographer

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The Twerking Academic

Artistâ??s Memo

The focus of this piece is to highlight and celebrate the asexual and aromantic community and what it means to exist outside of the expectation to be partnered. Much of the visual imagery centers around finding solace in not being defined by sexual desire or romantic attraction . I have found that much of the world operates under the allosexual, alloromantic assumption that everyone is seeking another body to caress or cuddle. When the pursuit of one or both types of connections is socially promoted as the â??naturalâ?• order, it often leaves those of us who do not experience those same urges feeling rather unnatural or lost. Even in spaces and communities where connections that are non-heteronormative are celebrated, asexuals and aromatics often find their identities overlooked or erased. And so, displaying the ace colors (black, gray, white, and purple) felt even more vitally necessary in this Queer Special Issue.

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Presenting those colors is a declaration that ace and aro are valid orientations without qualifiers or required explanations. These orientations should not be perceived as the LGBT+ limbo until a â??betterâ?• orientation can be found. Ace and aro people are frequently met with this type of reaction both in and out of the queer community. As a response to that reaction, I sought to personify what being ace and aro has meant to me with unapologetic boldness. At first glance, this statement would appear to be contradictory as I am aligning the visuals with a song called â??Confidently Lostâ?• by Sabrina Claudio. Ultimately, the phrase â??confidently lostâ?• captures a necessary balance of energy. The concept leaves room for self-discovery and roaming while simultaneously discouraging others from interfering and imposing their own personal convictions. A full and meaningful existence is possible outside of sex and romance.

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Reference

Claudio, S. (2017). Confidently Lost. [Song]. On *Confidently Lost.* SC Entertainment, LLC

Credits

Featured image â?? an excerpt from the video

Video provided by Shanita Mitchell

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Category

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3. Queer Special Issue, 2023-24

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