

Jessica Lipaz
Contemporary Childhoods
Professor Haeny Yoon
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Dialogue #1

The intention of this playlist is to take seriously and generate a physical representation of what it means to “listen with all of my senses” (brown, 8). This playlist aims to respond to this phrase, taken from adrienne maree brown’s introduction piece on emergent systems, with integrity toward collaboration of modalities, temporalities, emotions, and a labor of gathering. It is an exploratory and open-ended playlist which invites additions and encourages engagements that take their own path. It aims to be chaotic, allowing for the cross-firing of multiple senses at once to see what reaction, pleasure, or innovation can be invoked from this multiplicity. Yet, it is not disconnected. The ability to find meeting points, but also start wherever you want, is inspired by how brown describes the art of flocking: “staying separate enough not to crowd each other, aligned enough to maintain a shared direction, and cohesive enough to always move toward each other” (brown, 9). It is a test of how the collaboration of different types of experiences can manifest into an emergent system. The playlist is open for interpretation, but it also comes with context for connections to my own life, acknowledging the love I have for the pieces.

And so what is composed below is an unfinished multi-sensory playlist. A non-hierarchical, non-linear sensorial playlist with songs to listen to and dance with, videos to watch, art to observe, recipes to cook, and more. It is the belief that there is something powerful in an experience that instigates the use of more than one sense at a time. The belief that in moments of isolated sensory experience, we are potentially missing an opportunity for greater or more holistic understanding. It’s thinking about what is lost when we just view or hear something versus engaging our body and experiencing it ourselves. It’s the power of combined theoretical and experiential knowledge. And, further still, beyond just the five senses we commonly recognize — sight, smell, sound, touch, taste — this playlist hopes to awaken emotional senses like pleasure, anger, joy, calmness, and motivation.

In relation to childhoods and education today, this playlist embodies my philosophy on multimodality as an accessible and significant learning tool and the value of self-actualization manifested through exposure to new practices and ideas. It also supports my desire to facilitate play and imagination that allows students to create individualized, but collaborative educations based on their interests and a collective interest to progress toward freedom. In keeping with this intention, it requires community contribution.

Track 1:

14 Songs for each page of the introduction

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/6CFWao1IVtdSF9NK2fgN4Y?si=c36f5e4c9cf44d86>

1. *This Sound* — Greentea Peng

“This sound is physical! It’s very physical and literal!” Blasts the first line of this track. I chose this track to start the playlist because it invokes an energy with the baseline that pumps your heart. Greentea Peng is a spiritual and psychedelic artist who writes a lot about the world beyond our earth and connecting with nature. This tune comes from her debut album which is a protest album, calling for people to wake up to the realities of the world, how media takes us away from our truth and presence, and to fight against oppressive powers that divide us. It’s about the sound that comes out of listening to the metaphysical! A rally call.

2. *As* — Stevie Wonder

Now that Greentea warmed us up, we should be ready to digest one of the greatest songs of all time from one of, if not the, greatest album of all time (I get to say that because it’s true and it’s my playlist). It’s dynamic, it’s a story, it’s a process of the whole world shifting around you, but love remaining present for all time endlessly no matter what. The value brown should rule everything.

“Just as hate knows loves the cure, you can rest your mind assured, that I’ll be loving you always...Until the dolphins fly and parrots live at sea. Always.”

“Did you know that true love asks for nothing! Her acceptance is the way we gain! Did you know life has given love a guarantee to last through forever and another day!”

3. *Moving* — Dan Kye

By track three we gotta heat up, create some energy to move forward in these systems and processes. Dan Kye and the Rhythm Section label bring us there. Motivate us, and maybe make us move our bodies, forward! Presently! Randomly as we find fit! I’m also incredibly inspired by the cover art, done by (insert name) the fluidity, flexibility, and scale of feeling it invokes!

“Come on! Feel! I know it!”

4. *We Go On* — The Avalanches

Iconic DJ duo, the Avalanches’ music brings joy and hope. This song is for encouragement, for support in the effort forward. It’s a moment for joy and breath, possibly in anticipation of a time that will present a challenge.

“We go on, fighting each other, we go on”

5. *On & On* — Erykah Badu

Another infinitely iconic track. This song speaks again to the process of life, the systems that are continuous, and we must prepare ourselves to continue forward with. Badu is such an earthly

figure, leading us into the world, into the thick of emergence, prepped with religion, spirituality, and commitment. This track speaks to the reality, the redundancy of systems that do not put us forward but put us back to the same spot and challenges us to work past that, to work past mere habituation. It's in our hands.

“Like 1,2,3...The world keeps turning!”

“The man that knows something knows that he knows nothing at all!”

6. *Odyssey* — Yussef Dayes

As the title indicates, this track is a journey. Dayes takes us through an adventure of heartbeats and emotions through his drumming which commands careful listening as he often skips beats and holds space for pause, silence, and delay. The journey is not urgent, there is space to breathe, but it's commanding. Here we are in the thick of it.

7. *Real Magic* — Ricky Reed, Terrace Martin

Legendary producer & musician Terrace Martin phew. This more pop-like tune compared to his jazz/hip-hop discography is a moment for him to express gratitude and joy. It's a reminder for us to take moments for personal, for breathing, for smiling, and for noticing magic in the little moments. Along the journey, the odyssey toward change, if we don't have gratitude and notice moments of synchronicity, or magic, we won't continue with the right intention, we won't be reenergized by the world's messages.

“Just take your time, count your blessings. Just lay right here for a second. It's a free world let me get lost in it.”

8. *Ordinary Pleasure* — Toro y Moi

Another break in the grind to remember the value of pleasure and its connection to love.

Maximize what brings you joy and notice how when you are genuinely pursuing your passion, you'll inspire those around you to do the same! Attitude is key, create your own reality!

“Maximize all the pleasure, even with all this weather, nothing can make it better, maximize all the pleasure!”

9. *Got Til it's Gone* — Janet Jackson

I chose this track because I love it. I love the Joni Mitchell sample, and I love the remix. But also, because it's another reminder of gratitude along the way, and not taking anything for granted. Which at this point in our journey could need to be reminded. We've come quite far and seen lots of discouragement, how can we continue forward unless we find gratitude for what we do have?

“Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you've got til it's gone”

10. *Where I'm From* — Digital Planets

This jazz backed hip hop group from 90's Brooklyn gives us an affirmation of self to propel us into the future. Once we remember what we have and are grateful for it, we have to own it. Not with ego, but with prideful humility. Understanding ourselves and where we come from, will help us be grounded along the journey toward where we are going.

"I'm interplanetary, my intergroup is varied."

"My grandma told my mother it's Africa at work. The vibes, we free, the universal beat."

11. *Memory Box* — Peter Cat Recording Co.

Alright another one of my favorite songs of all time. At this point. We might be tired. We might need a break, a moment to pause and reflect. This tune is for everyone at any phase, it has it all. We can look to our past, to what we've accomplished, and sit in our present proud, or we can criticize and we can complain. We can hold onto regrets or grudges. But, when the tune ends, we have to move on, we cannot dwell any longer, we must learn from what's in our memory box, our stacked lives. What will we take? It's a moment for reflection.

"Well this is what I'll say, just imagine."

12. *Birth of a New Life* — Drexciya

Detroit based afrofuturist techno group from the 90's comes in to pave the way for the future, for what is possible. The origin story of Drexciya and their music is the belief that they were slaves thrown overboard into the ocean during the middle passage, transforming and adapting into water breathing animals, and surviving forward. What can be imagined through our interpretation of history, how can we rewrite our stories, how can we imagine what is possible now that we have arrived where we are? What does the birth of new life bring? What opportunity beyond reform and into wonder?

13. *Day Dreaming* — Aretha Franklin

Had to include the queen. A voice so powerful, so moving. Also, debatably my favorite song of all time in competition with *As*. For the second to last track, I present to you, Ms. Aretha Franklin, and her song of freedom, safety, love, and escape to blast you off into inspiration. This song holds space for grief and hope, it's both nostalgic and forward thinking. It describes the pain that was experienced throughout the process, but keeps the future open for new opportunities, new views, new experiences.

"Look at my life, floating away"

"Hey baby let's get away let's go somewhere, huh? Baby, can we? Where!? I don't care!"

14. *Good Days* — SZA

As we end this section of the playlist, looking toward the future and what we can make, I thought I'd present SZA's song of hope, released during the pandemic after years without any new music from one of the largest female artists of this generation. Enjoy producer Jacob Collier's melodic vision for peace after uncontrollable change. The 2020 rally call for a brighter future and strength

in interpersonal relationships — including the one with yourself. Clearly holds an extremely soft spot in my life.

“Still want to try, still believe in, good days.”

“Sunny inside, good days on my mind”

Track 2:

Recipes

1. Suspicious Stew: Minecraft edition

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYdRRQVp5rk>

In her introduction, adrienee maree brown writes that her favorite life forms of that moment are dandelions and mushrooms for their resilient structures (brown, 7). I tried to find recipes that included both of these items, and to my surprise was introduced to “Suspicious Stew.” According to this Minecraft player, who details how to create the recipe in the video, the most filling dish possible in the game is the combination of two mushrooms and dandelions. The meal is called suspicious stew, perhaps in acknowledgment of the highly regenerative nature of both ingredients.

2. Dandelion Mushroom Soup: Tower of Fantasy edition

<https://gamersraft.com/trending/how-to-make-dandelion-mushroom-soup-in-tower-of-fantasy/>

Another online-gamer combination. This time, in soup form.

3. Dandelion Mushroom Tart

<https://cooking.nytimes.com/recipes/1012812-dandelion-tart>

This dish is included to give an opportunity to those who want to try the combination of these ingredients in three dimensional form. Although I could not find a soup or stew, so perhaps I’ll have to come up with one myself.

Track 3:

Art works

1. “Harvest” (2010) — Xaviera Simmons

<https://icamiami.org/collection/xaviera-simmons-harvest-2010/>

This wood installation represents the labor of gathering together simple, known objects in a chaotic, yet intentional strategy that abstracts their individual meaning into a larger, uncategorizable work.

2. “Black to Techno” — Jenn Nkiru

