

BY LOIS CHAN

salvagaging

When I was thirteen, I learned of the intersection between art and text from Paul Gauguin.

WHEN THE TWO OF US WERE IN ARLES, BOTH OF US MAD, AT CONSTANT WAR OVER THE BEAUTY OF COLOUR — ME, I LOVED THE COLOUR RED.

On his time painting with Vincent van Gogh.

I thought it was astonishing — that along with writing beautiful words, he painted beautiful artworks.

GAUGUIN

The women Paul Gauguin painted were like nothing I'd ever seen.



EXIT

GALLERY 1



Before Gauguin, I didn't know women could be painted with something other than white hues.



Before Gauguin, I never saw art as a lifestyle, an obsession, a pursuit of a higher state of being.



Before Gauguin, **RED** was just a colour...

Paul Gauguin sailed to Tahiti in 1891.

docile

strange

cannibalistic

bizarre

primitive

alluring

mysterious

Eve

corrupt

child-like

savage

ignorant

serpent

There, he sought and took a

child of about thirteen years

to be his wife.



“
(no)”



“Aren't you afraid of me?” I asked.

“
Eha”



“
Aïta”

“Do you wish to live in my hut for always?”



“
(yes)”

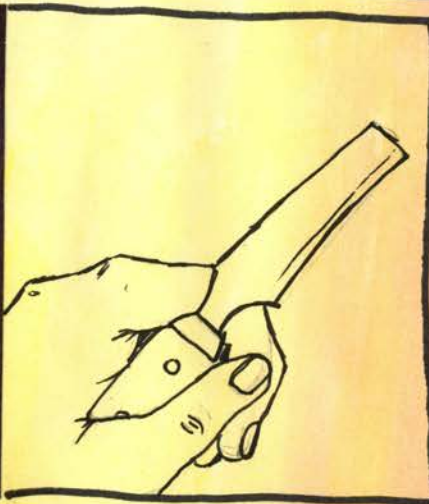
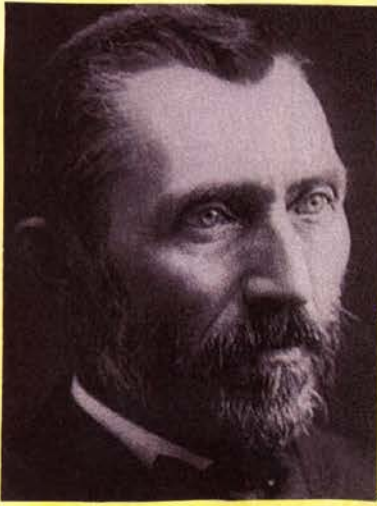


In his journal, he wrote of the encounter:

—But the mocking line about her otherwise pretty, sensual, and tender mouth warned me that the real dangers of the adventure would be for me, not for her. . . .

In 1888, Arles, Vincent and Paul painted together in the Yellow House.

It could have been envy, debt, or just the rain, but one night,



Vincent threatened Paul with an open razor in hand.



So they left **Arles** in ruins & molded **madness** into splendor, waging a **war** in which **beauty** became a weapon to

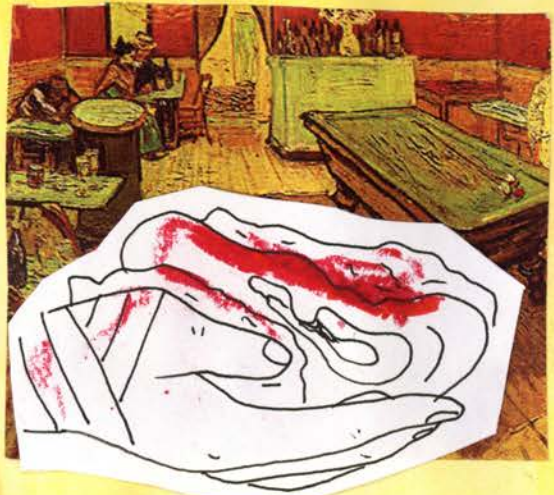


shave & cut down the beautiful into something as simple as

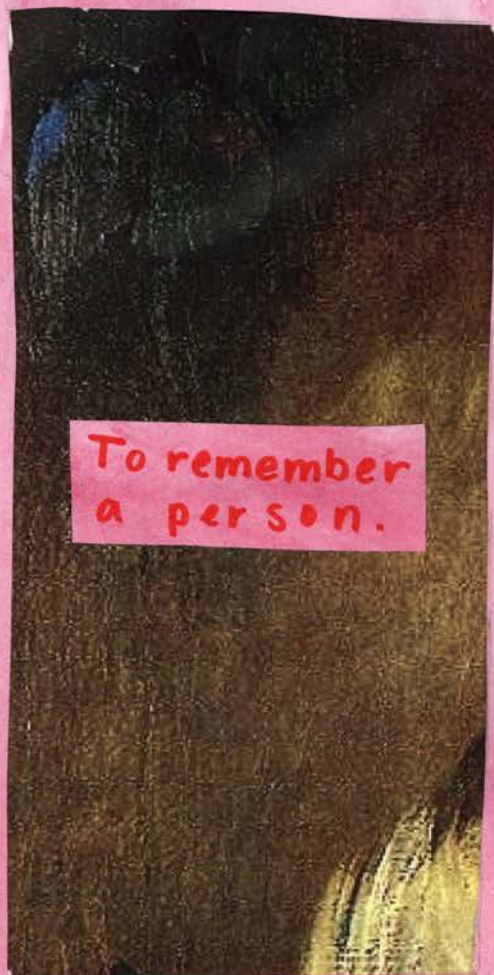


"THE PROSTITUTE"
Van Gogh gave his ear to.

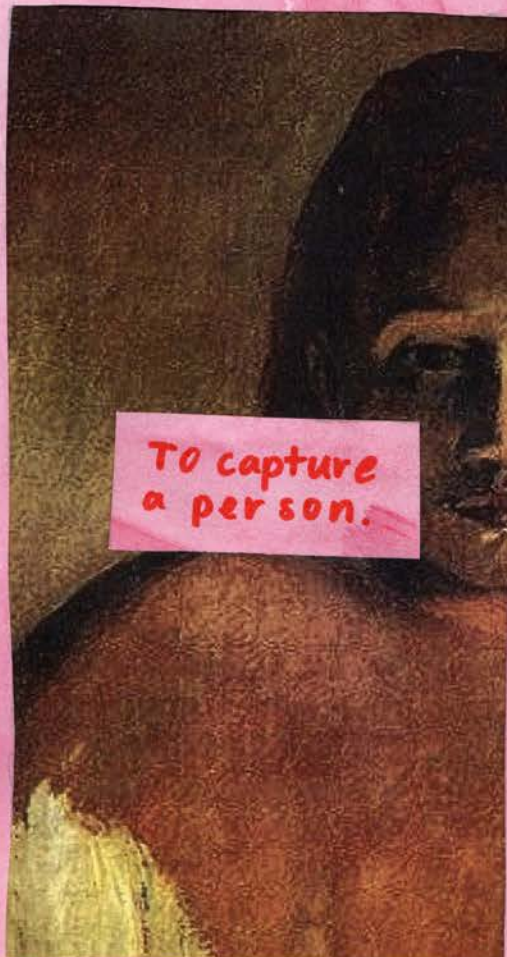
"THE GIRL"
Gauguin made his wife.



What is the task of portraiture ?



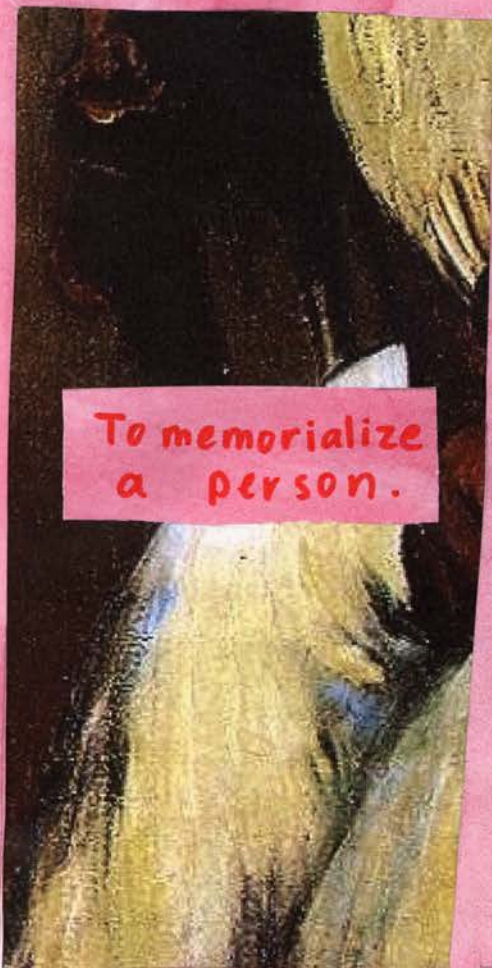
To remember
a person.



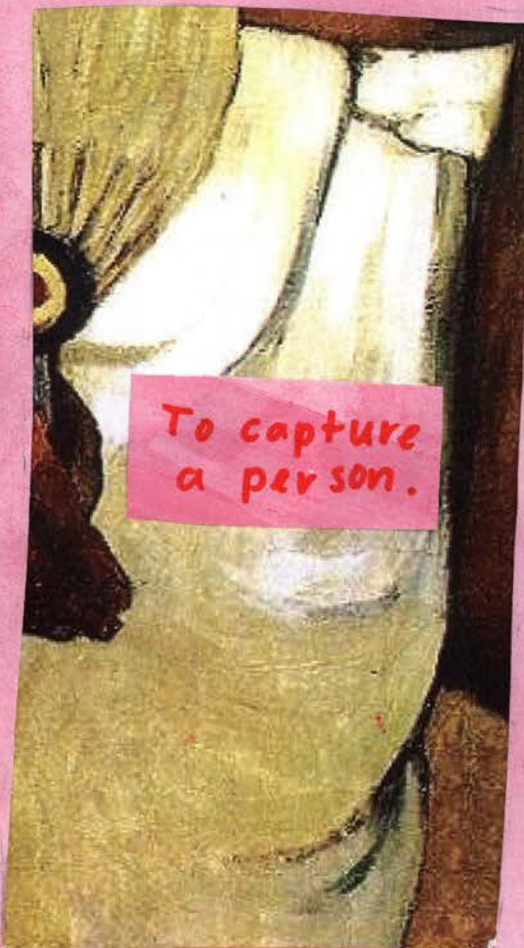
To capture
a person.



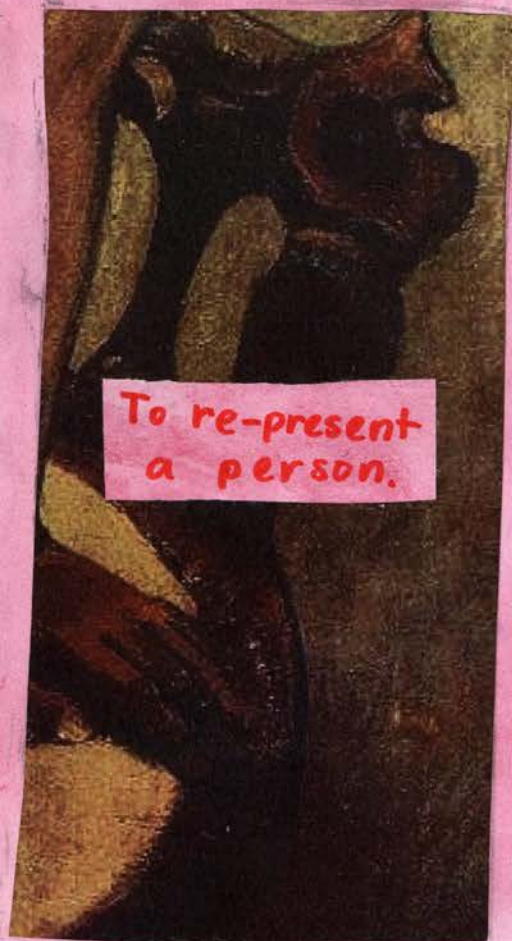
To represent
a person.



To memorialize
a person.



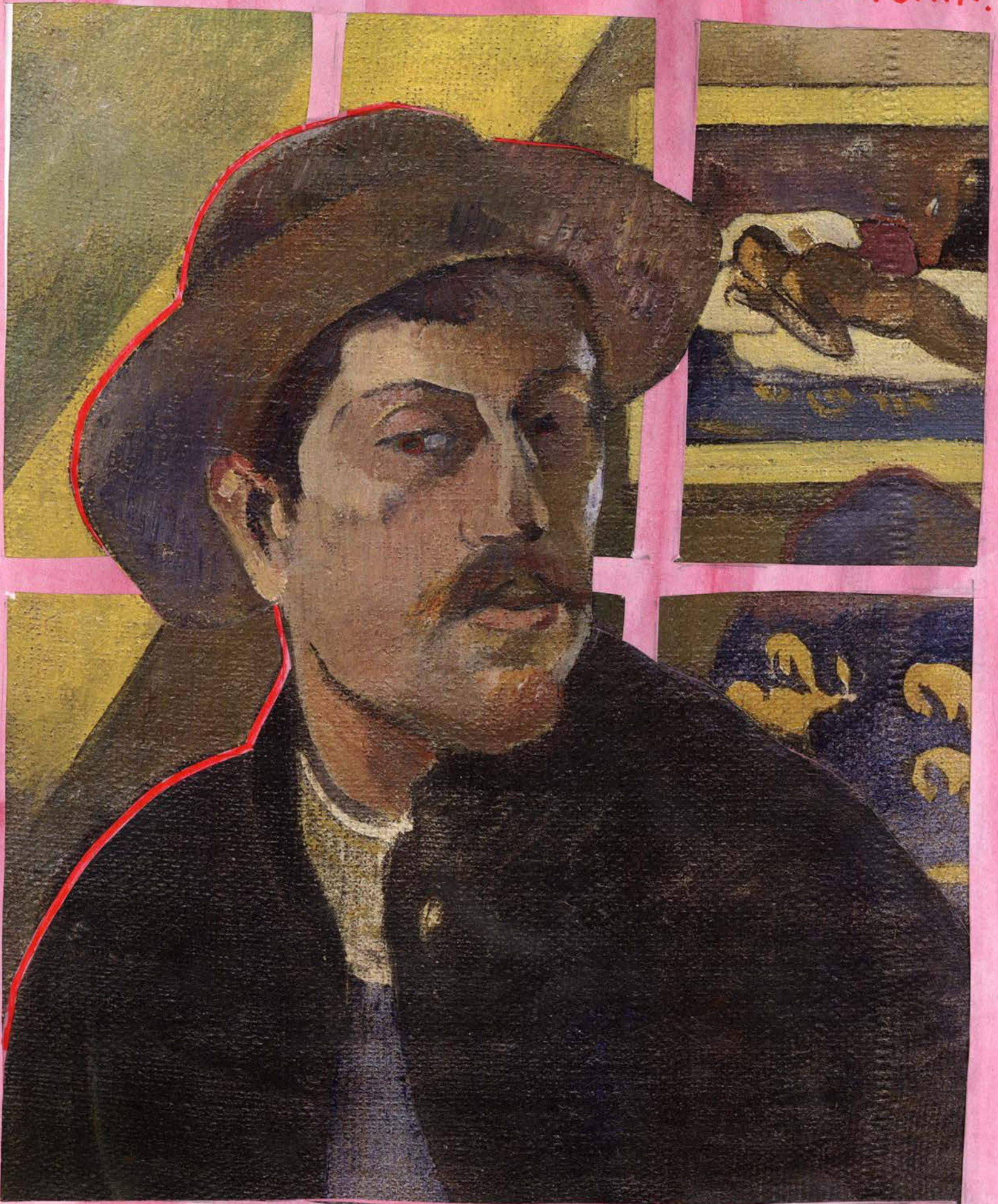
To capture
a person.



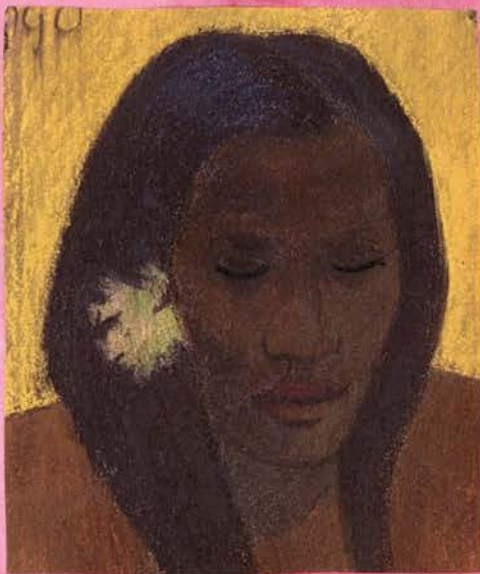
To re-present
a person.

If you say Gauguin fast enough it will sound like

GO AGAIN. GO AGAIN. GO AGAIN. GO AGAIN.



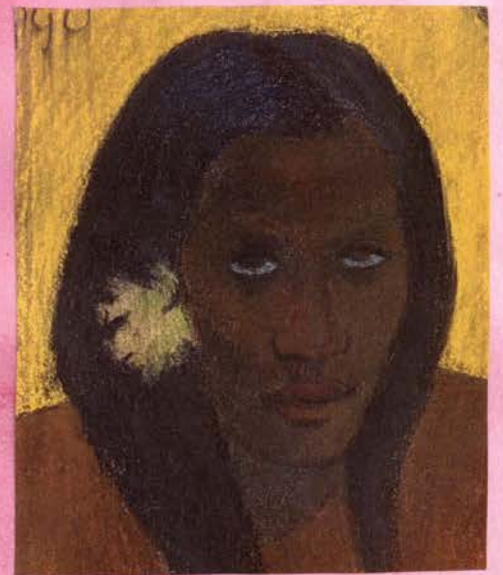
When she was thirteen years old, Teha'ama became Gauguin's



Wife.

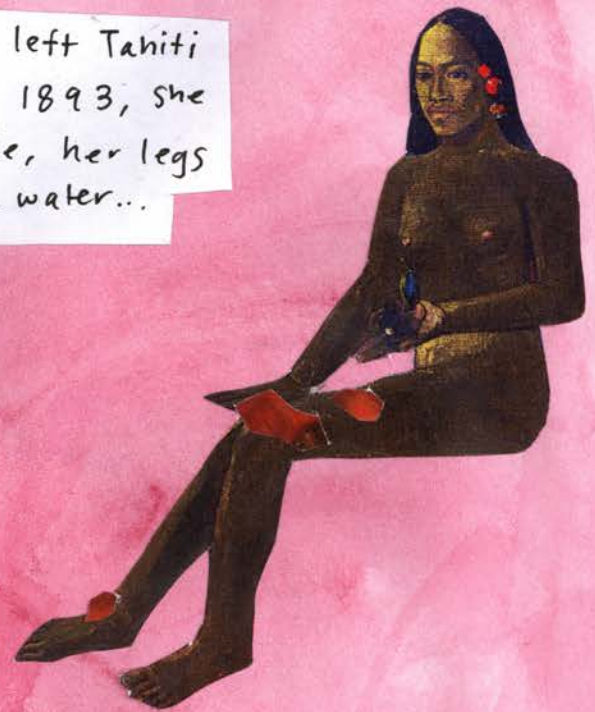


Muse.

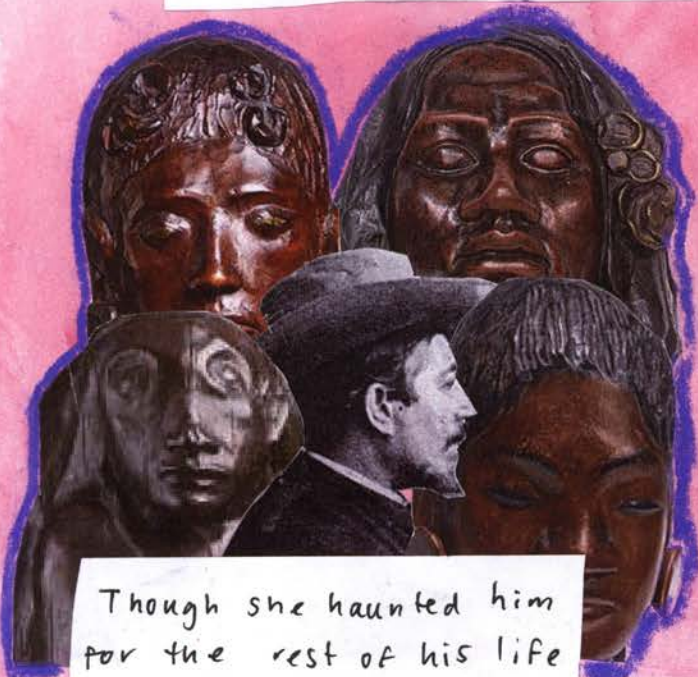


Legacy.

He writes that when he left Tahiti to return to France in 1893, she wept on the quayside, her legs dangling above the water...



The **flower** behind her ear had fallen, wilted upon her knee.



Though she haunted him for the rest of his life



She married again soon after and moved on.

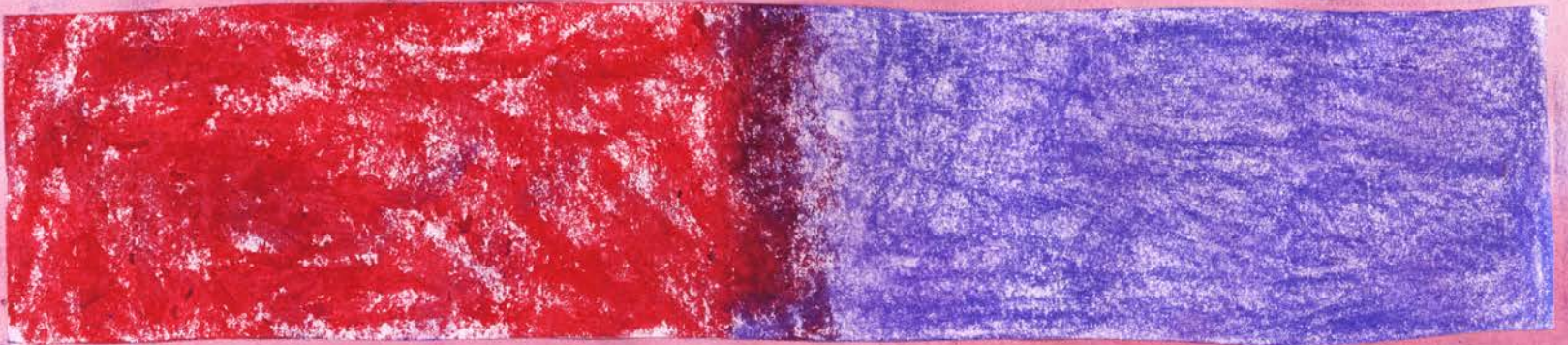
When Gauguin returned to Tahiti again after professional failure, some say



He wasn't interested in seeing Teha'amana or



She wasn't interested in seeing him or



They spent a week together, after which she returned home.



In retrospect, Gauguin was only a small part of her life.

He is only a small part of my journey as a creative.

AND RED IS JUST



A COLOUR