

To: Spring 2020 Restorative Justice Group #5

Title: *Word Art*

I'm a bit of a news junkie. I tend to read a lot of what's happening in the world from a variety of sources. I will also admit to how much I am missing sports right now---not just the sports section of the newspaper but watching sports...it would certainly take up some indoor time, but Packers re-runs just don't do it for me. I've learned that I can only watch so much news these days because it's pretty much all about the pandemic, and it's exhausting. Various news sources are doing their best to highlight heroes and feel-good stories, which invariably make me tear up, but I do look forward to hearing about those people.

Earlier this week, I was reading through the online news source, *Huffington Post* and came across this new feature in which they are highlighting an artist. The work kind of jumped off the page for me.

Here's what *Huffington Post* wrote:

"Each week, we'll feature an artist offering their vision for how to handle the world as it is today. We hope they make you think, make you smile, or just offer something to do other than staring wistfully out the windows."

So, in a moment of "Why not?", I wrote to the artist, Ryan Carl, to ask if I could feature his artwork in the handout that we are sending to you this week. Within minutes, I received the most generous response with his description of how he thinks about his work before letting his creativity flow.

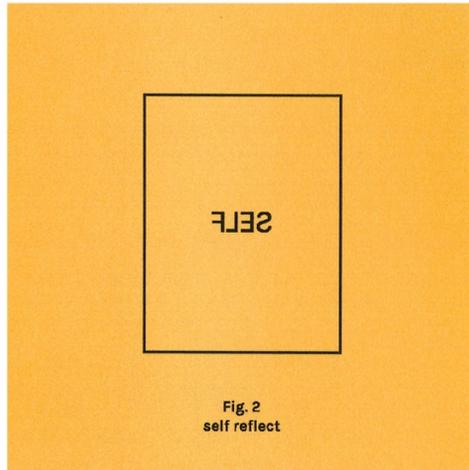
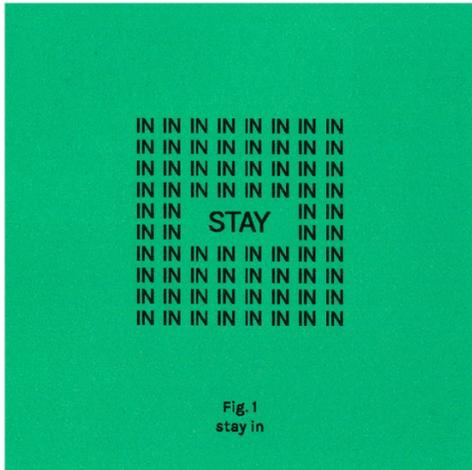
Thank you for reaching out and yes I'm happy for you to use my work to help facilitate. I create a lot of work with a similar style and format to the Huffington Post artwork ... I call it wordplay or type play...Often I choose a single word/concept (i.e. Time, Love, Mind, Space, etc.) then I think through common modifiers for the word (i.e. time flies, time warp, time clock, half-time, and so on)... and then present those ideas by just using type and adjusting or positioning it in a certain way. This may be a way for you to organize the handout/workshop. Have participants choose a single word concept or two that is meaningful to them, and then think through a few modifiers for the concept and how to represent them visually with type.

So, this week, we are inviting you to try your hand at creating a graphic (inspired by Ryan Carl) using some word or idea that is meaningful to you. NO ARTISTIC SKILL IS REQUIRED. Have fun with this activity. Be playful. Dig in. Throw out sketches and try again. Share what you've done with others. And, save some of your work for when we gather again.

Check out some of Ryan Carl's examples on the other side. Back to you next week.

Be kind. Show someone gratitude. Be safe.

All of these backgrounds are in color, so use color if you are able...



RYAN CARL FOR HUFFPOST

With permission from Ryan Carl

Save your work to share later!

~ Ms. Caro-Bruce