

FIGE'S WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA WILL REMAIN UP FOR AS LONG AS THE PLATFORMS HOSTING THEM WILL ALLOW.

YOU CAN STILL FIND ALL OUR ZINES FREE TO DOWNLOAD ON OUR WEBSITE!

Website: the-fige-project.neocities.org

Tumblr: [@thefigeproject](https://www.tumblr.com/@thefigeproject)

Bluesky: [@thefigeproject.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/thefigeproject.bsky.social)

FIGE AND THIS ZINE WERE CREATED BY ME, @ROBOT-HORDE.

Pillowfort: [@Robot-Horde](https://pillowfort.com/@Robot-Horde)

Website: robot-horde.neocities.org

3/6/2026

THE FIGE PROJECT

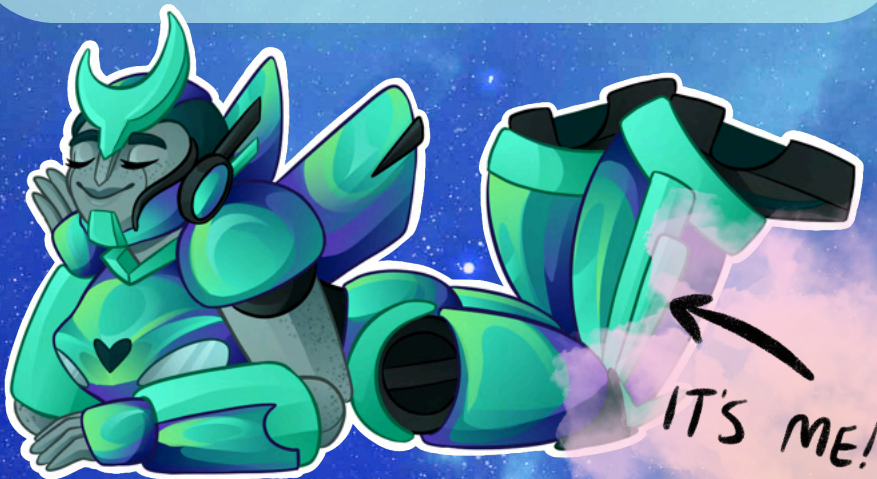


Fuck It, Good Enough, or The FIGE Project, was a Transformers zine group I organized and ran from May 2025 to February 2026. From its inception to its closure we published 15 zines.

There's three things you should know in regards to me as FIGE's founder:

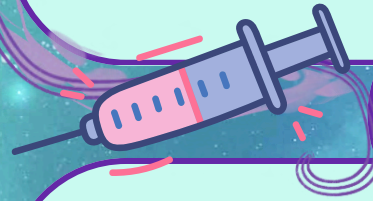
- I started the project out of spite.
- I am very proud of how it turned out.
- I am also very, very tired.

You might think riding off spite doomed the project, but no. It was a combination of my life having the plot of a soap opera and living through America's descent into fascism. But for a whole year, "Fuck It, Good Enough" was my much needed escape.

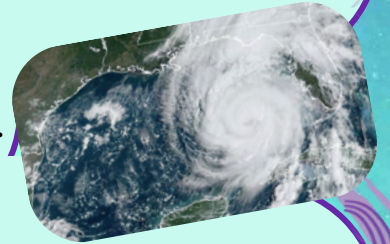


To understand the life cycle of the project, here's a timeline of the most notable events.

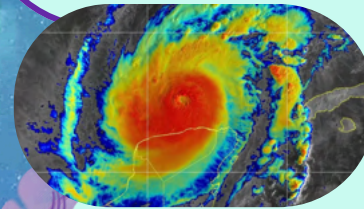
• May 2023 I start experiencing debilitating health issues.



• September 26, 2024 Hurricane Helene destroyed my house.



• October 10, 2024 Hurricane Milton fucked it up some more.



• November 24, 2024 My mom was diagnosed with cancer.

• January 17, 2025 Her cancer was determined to be terminal.



As of publishing this zine my house is still under construction, and while my mom is thankfully alive and doing well, her illness is still a heavy presence. So with all of that, you can imagine that by February 2025 I was itching for an escape, and that's where planning started.

- February 9, 2025 – FIGE planning formally begins.
- February 10, 2025 – I expose a poorly run zine.
- February 17, 2025 – I set up Serrated as a test zine.
- April 2025 – I get a partial diagnosis, but health issues remain and are worsened by stress.
- April 4, 2025 – Do Your Fav's Dirty Volume 1 is published as another test.



By now I'd gathered that people love the concept of making art that might be considered "bad", and that I had the knowledge to compile submissions and create digital zines. Serrated and DYFD made me confident I'd created a system solid enough to share publicly.



- May 12, 2025 – FIGE officially opens.
- July 24, 2025 – Our NSFW zines are hidden on Itch.io.
- July 28, 2025 – I cease publishing on itch.io and move all zines to our website.

This is where the cracks begin. While our zines were always free, issues with payment processors and online censorship posed some logistical problems and concerns for the future. Several age verification laws put in place around the same time only made it worse.

- November 11, 2025 – I step down from social server moderation.

When you have social spaces like FIGE there will inevitably be social conflict, and after being the primary person to handle that conflict, the stress of it took a toll on my body and worsened my health issues. In an effort to keep the project going, I stepped down from any social moderation.



- November 15, 2025 – I decide to close FIGE.

Shortly after stepping down, another social issue occurred. While I was not the one handling it, the fact it happened at all was enough to irritate my health issues. At the same time I was falling out of love with not just Transformers, but fandom and social media in general and after some hard conversations I made the difficult decision to close FIGE.

So now that you have the timeline, let's get into the details.

PLANNING

Are you a creative who has been too scared to share your work?

Have you been rejected from art projects based on a perceived lack of skill or popularity?

Have you joined or witnessed fandom art books labeled as "zines" be poorly run before crashing and burning?



Well then,
I made this
project for **you**.



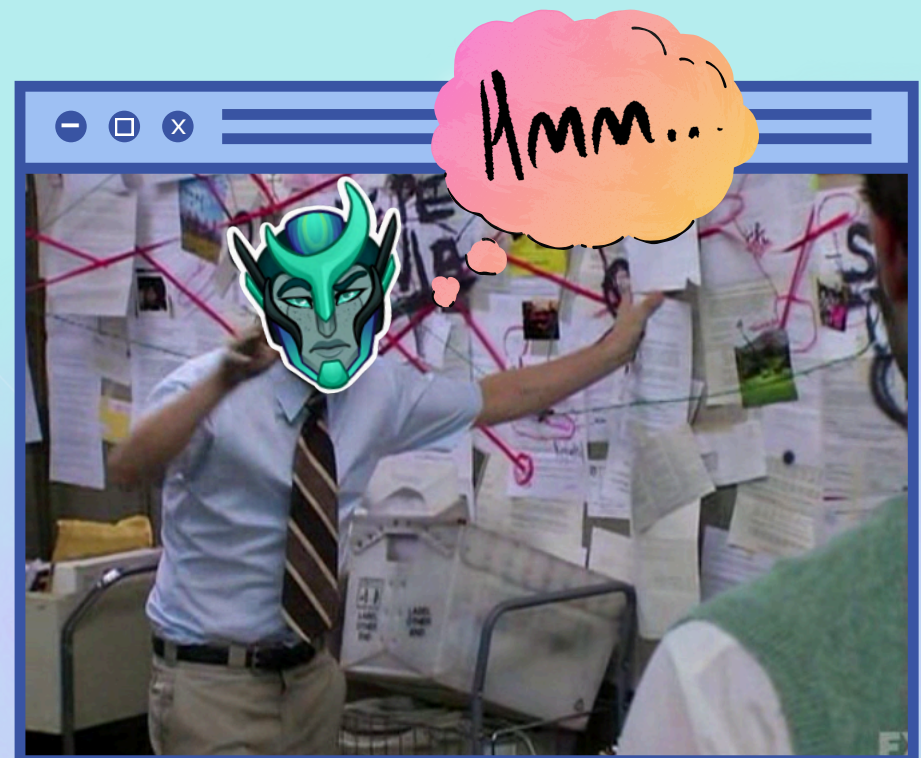
Here's where the spite comes in. In November 2024 I witnessed the start of a fandom zine. In the following months I watched as the zine received criticism for various things, including having an unspoken list of standards for participants to meet. Instead of effectively handling their valid criticism, they responded with a lie and an attitude of "if you don't like it, go make your own".



As a result, I chose to make a project based on transparency where anyone could see our goals and values whether they joined the project or not. I made a website that stated a clear mission, standards, and rules I'd stand firm on. Our leadership was also transparent with their information and role listed on a dedicated page.

I originally wanted to run an annual event called "The Bad Art Project" where people could anonymously submit a creation to be displayed on a website. I wanted to discourage competition and encourage people to create without fear of rejection. The idea was that anonymity and no ability to like or comment on submissions would create an even playing field where people would feel comfortable to join and experiment.

After considering logistics, I realized I didn't have the ability to run it in a way that met my ideal standards, so it was back to the drawing board.



February 9, 2025 I made a Discord server to plan this future community art project. Ten friends and acquaintances joined and helped me process through my ideas. One day later, controversy surrounding the zine I'd been watching had devolved into mostly fandom politics where lies were being believed. So on February 10th I created the one and only callout post I've ever made.

I cut out the fandom politics and focused only on the zine's standards being hidden and leadership lying about it.

The zine shut down by the end of that day.

That was also the day my friend Pugsly suggested we change the project's title from The Bad Art Project to:

**FUCK IT,
GOOD ENOUGH**

IT WAS THE PERFECT NAME.



I saw some swearing off zines altogether, and with that lingering in the back of my mind the plan for FIGE started to change. By May 7, 2025 I decided I wanted FIGE to be a zine group. Since most of my planning had been establishing a mission, code of conduct, and content guidelines, it was easy to finalize things and by May 12th the FIGE server was open to the public.

LESSONS LEARNED

We ran our zines with three main principles:

1. No Juries

2. EVERYTHING IS ART

3. CRITIQUE TO BUILD COMMUNITY

I still stand by the first two points, but the third one wasn't necessary.

Critique is invaluable as an artist, and while I wanted a community where people could get constructive feedback, it opened the door to other social elements in the server. I don't regret opening that door, but it did create more stress for me.

If I were to start this project over I would limit the social aspect. It spread me too thin and diluted the focus of the project. Perhaps if I'd limited it in the first place, I would have had the energy to keep the project going longer, but who knows.

Here's a collection of other things I learned:

SOMETIMES YOU NEED TO BE THE BAD GUY.

Get used to telling people "no" when you think it's what's best for the group. Being in charge means you won't be popular with everyone, but frustrating the few is worth the comfort it brings to the many.

This is the one thing I regret from leading this project. At times I was too patient and scared to face retaliation for bluntly saying "no" to certain people upfront. But I've learned that at some point it becomes less stressful to handle the fallout of upsetting someone than it is to try and appease them in the first place.



PEOPLE VALUE INTEGRITY.

Being transparent and consistent earns you respect, sometimes even from people who disagree with you. This is why I shouldn't have been scared of retaliation. I should have been confident to let my reputation speak for itself, because it hasn't failed me yet.

PEOPLE WILL ASSUME THEY'RE EXCLUDED.

People are so used to being rejected or excluded from projects that they've started to assume it's the default.

Despite stating that no FIGE zines would be juried, I often had people ask what the selection process would be. And even with all but our mini zines accepting any type of media, I frequently had writers assume zines wouldn't allow writing. So be prepared to repeat yourself until people believe they'll be included.

DUE DATES ONLY MEAN AS MUCH AS YOU ENFORCE THEM.

Most people don't submit until the last minute. So if you're not getting many submissions at first and you worry no one's going to join, it's always because they submit last minute.

There will also always be someone who wants an extension. Since it took me a few days to format zines after the due date anyway, I always gave extensions to those who asked.

FANDOM SPACES DON'T HAVE TO BE DRAMATIC.

There is a lot of drama in online fandoms where people form "teams" and thrive off of fights. I decided I wouldn't exclude anyone solely based on their "team". Instead, I displayed what topics I was not comfortable moderating and I laid out what interpersonal behavior outside the project was unacceptable and would lead to removal from the project.

That was enough to keep the peace without demonizing people or compromising my beliefs. Those who were okay with the arrangement joined, those who weren't didn't stick around, and those who knew they didn't comply with our code of conduct surprisingly stayed away with no issue.





The

IMPACT

of

FIGGE

FIGE's influence spread so much further than I thought it would. My goal was encouraging people to push themselves out of their comfort zone, to try new things and create without feeling self-conscious. A sign we accomplished this was just how many zine first timers we had.

FIGE also motivated people to make their own zines for the first time, and ended up inspiring and helping with projects like the Ambulon Lives zine and Artifex Endurae. While FIGE may be coming to an end, it started a chain reaction that led to the existence of various creations that otherwise may not have come to fruition, and that was an incredible thing to see.

I'm proud of the zines we created as a group, but more than that I'm incredibly proud of everyone who took the time to challenge themselves. I'm proud of everyone who grew their confidence, who created without fear, and who found a new joy in making their own artistic projects outside of the group. I may have built the building, but it was all of you who brought it to life.

This was my first zine too

#yippee my first zine contribution!!!! #GO GET IT

finally this piece where I can't help but fall in love with the amount I've grown in the time of this project.

It really boosted my confidence in creation, but really made me learn how to pace myself, how to study and use references, and how to make my best works without the stress of it not being "perfect"

I'm happy to make and share my "good enough" works and still enjoy making the entire piece and its process!

I participated in my first zine!! Had tons of fun, everyone worked really hard so I hope y'all enjoy it as much as I did ^^*

Also huge +1 to this! Finishing my pieces actually gave me the mojo to start doing more creative stuff again!!!

So excited to have participated in a zine! This was for [@thefigeproject.bsky.social](https://www.bsky.social/@thefigeproject)'s Precious Metals. It's a great group for those who need encouragement to finish art. I've not otherwise been able to fully render anything in years [#transformers](https://www.bsky.social/#transformers)

This was my first experience in doing a zine or something more collaborative! Ty for fige and ty to everyone else here, even if I didn't really talk. Hope you do well. I'm

👊👊 #i think joining fige made me a better artist i rllly treasure my time there <3

this project inspired me to do something I've wanted to do for the best part of a decade!!

so sad to see this come to an end, this project has been so cool and inspiring

this was my first zine and i'm so glad i joined, even if shortlived it was very enjoyable, thank you all

I was not as active as before lately, but this project has a place in my heart bc it allowed me to feel inspired and happy for an illustration once again. And meet many talented artist aaa y'all are so goated, thank you a lot for your patience and for creating this project, Tag 🐼💖

#i couldn't have asked for a better first zine experience 🧡🧡🧡

THANK YOU TAG!!! You've been so fuckin awesome and the legacy of FIGE is one steeped in gold
Genuinely you and the projects were the reason I kept going with zines when otherwise I would've given up, and everybody here has been so absolutely phenomenal I still can't believe I got to work with all yall

I'm really thankful for the opportunity to participate in a zine for the very first time, even if its very late. I hope it inspires me to make my own (i have one idea in my head rn)

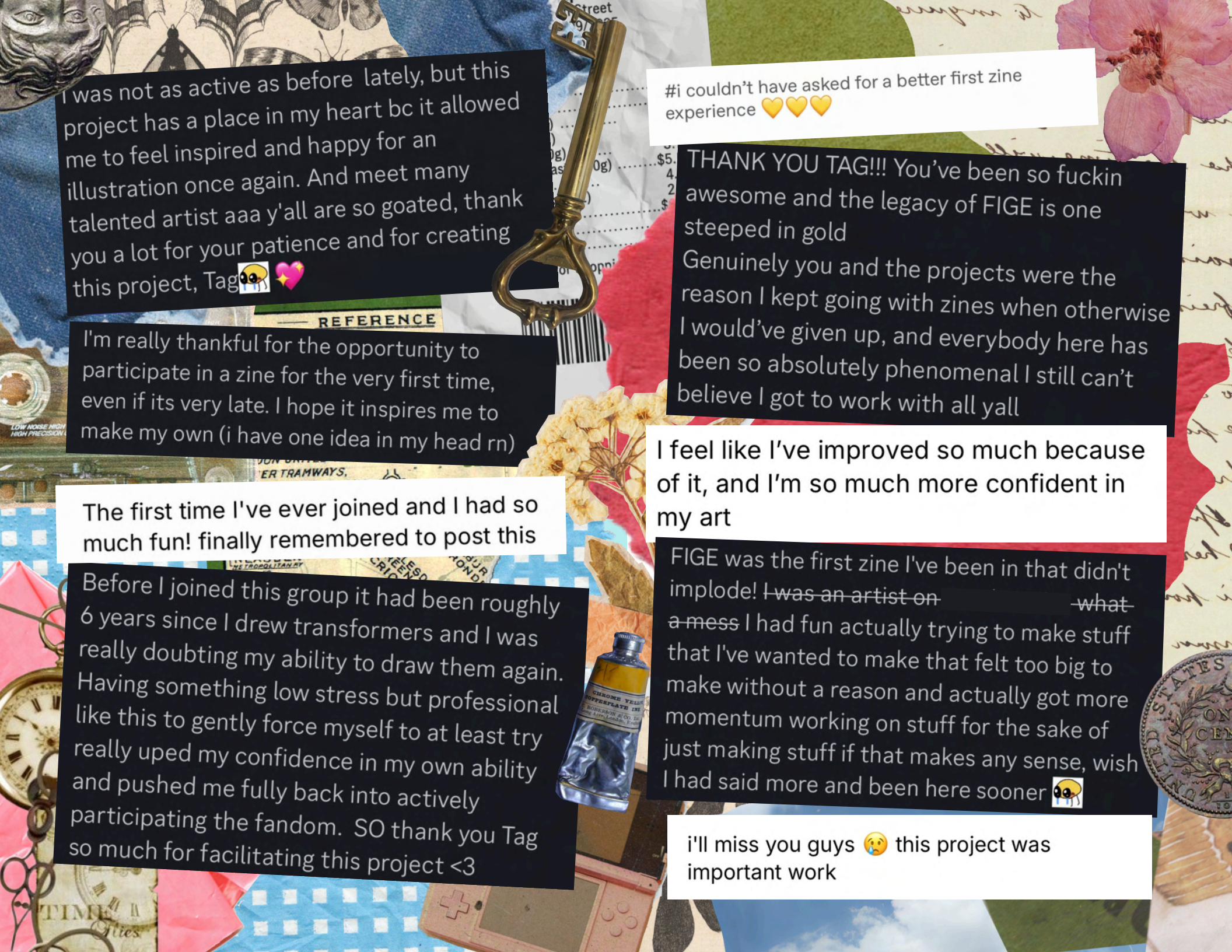
The first time I've ever joined and I had so much fun! finally remembered to post this

Before I joined this group it had been roughly 6 years since I drew transformers and I was really doubting my ability to draw them again. Having something low stress but professional like this to gently force myself to at least try really uped my confidence in my own ability and pushed me fully back into actively participating the fandom. SO thank you Tag so much for facilitatng this project <3

I feel like I've improved so much because of it, and I'm so much more confident in my art

FIGE was the first zine I've been in that didn't implode! I was an artist on ~~what~~ a mess I had fun actually trying to make stuff that I've wanted to make that felt too big to make without a reason and actually got more momentum working on stuff for the sake of just making stuff if that makes any sense, wish I had said more and been here sooner 🐼

i'll miss you guys 😭 this project was important work





FIGE is hands down the most influential thing I've ever created, and my hope is that people look back on it fondly, taking the Fuck It, Good Enough attitude to heart and using it to their advantage in the future.

In a world with so many social expectations, political pressures, and restrictions being placed on the shoulders of artists, perfection is the least of our concern. Art for the sake of it should be encouraged, and we should uplift each other at every opportunity.

So when you feel the weight of the world is suffocating you and your creative spirit, I encourage you to make art anyway, and when you reach a point where you start questioning your abilities, I hope you say:

Fuck It.

GOOD ENOUGH.

And you share your work with the world anyway, because it is absolutely needed.

Happy creating, everyone, and thank you for the joy you've brought me on this journey.

- TAG
(ROBOT-HORDE)

