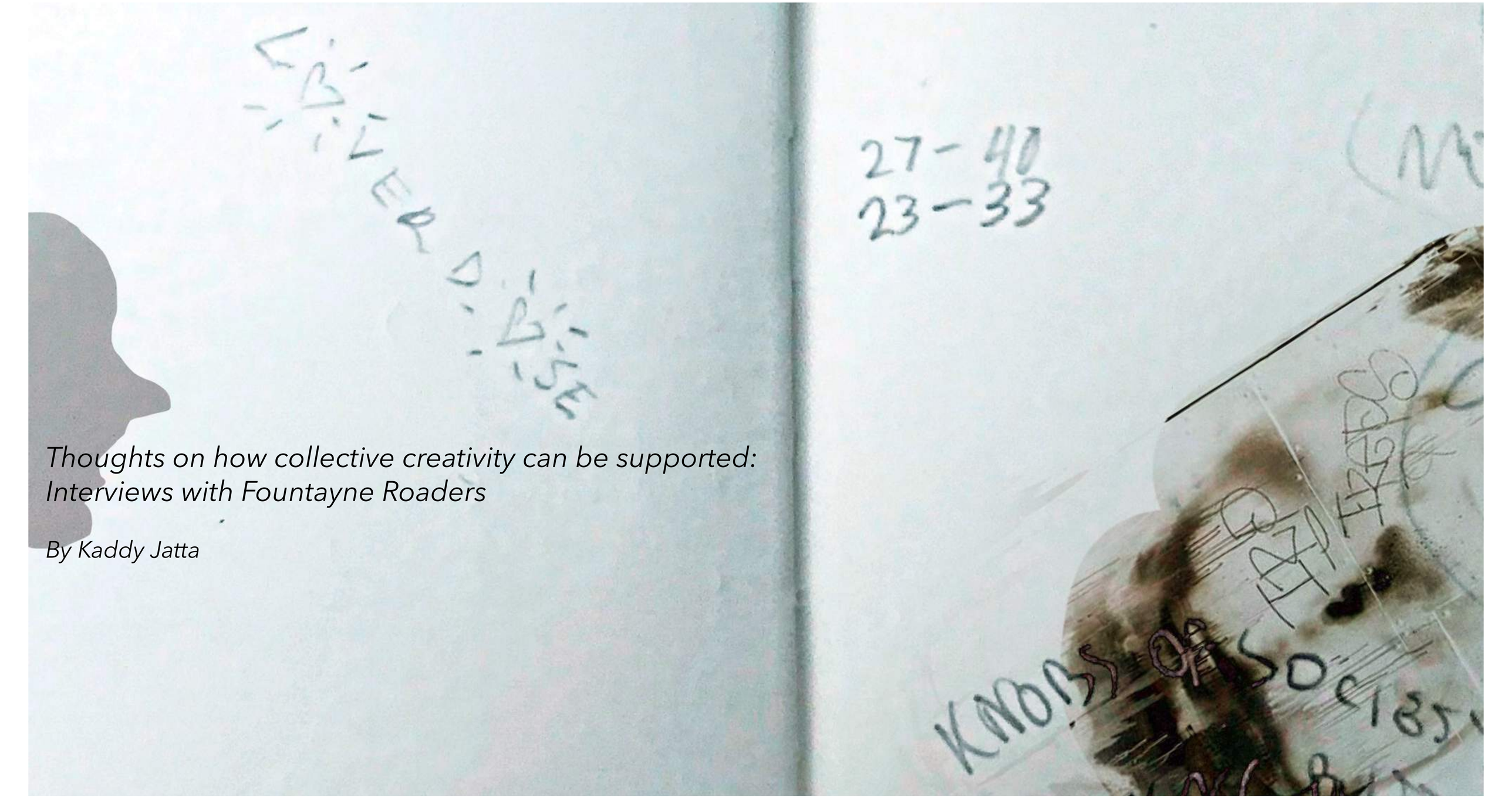
Thoughts on how collective creativity can be supported: Interviews with Fountayne Roaders

By Kaddy Jatta



The collage on the background of these pages is inspired by the interviews made within the Founatyne Road community. @therealtomins, an entertainer, illustrator, and a musician living on Fountayne Road drew the base illustration "Knobs of the society" whilst our interview. Allia, another community member, working in film production, contributed to the sketch as well.



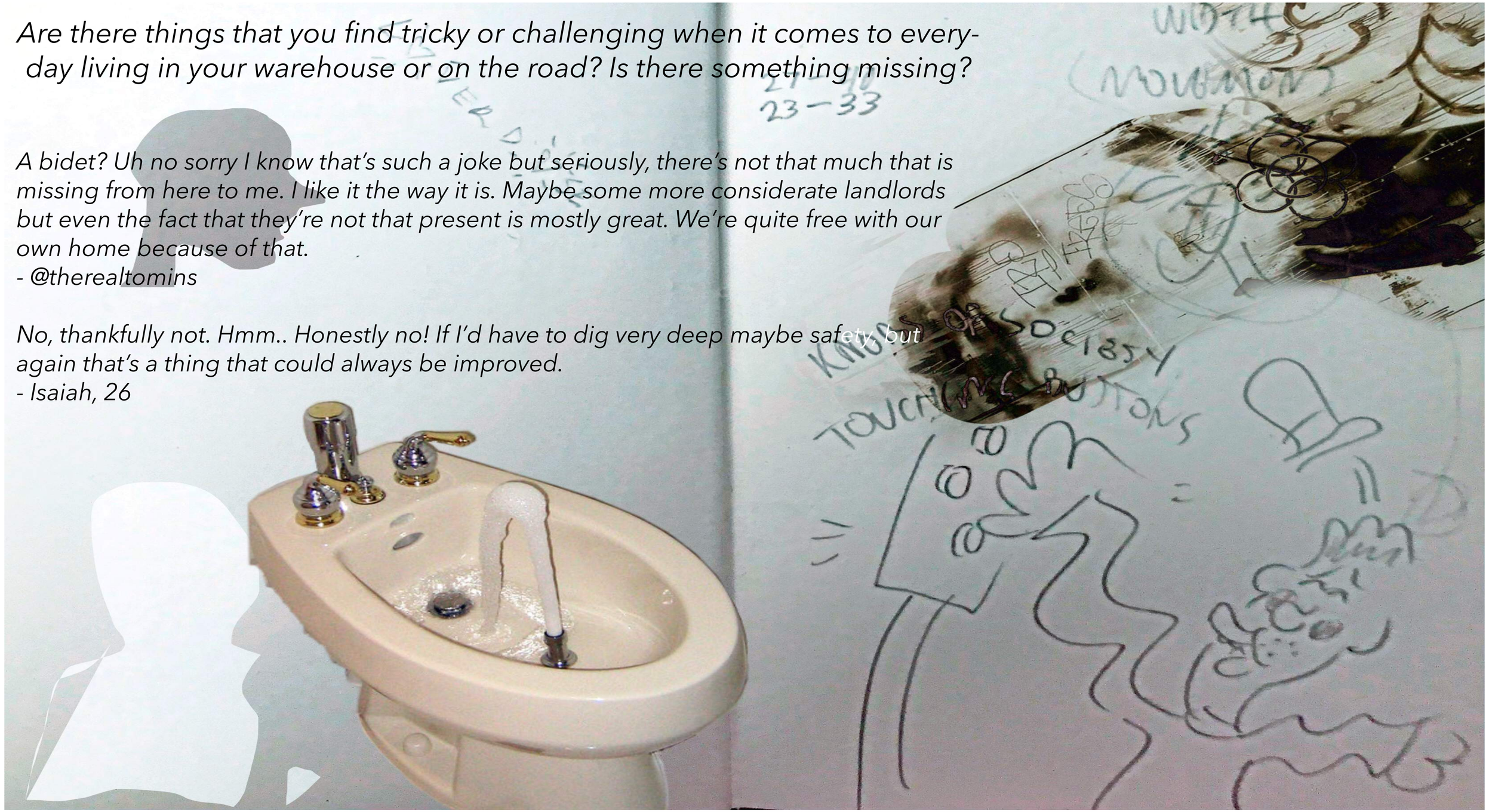
What made you want to move in/ base your business in this area?

I wanted to live in a place that feels limitless in terms of how I can think about my life, work, and the kind of person I want to be. I feel like this place attracts people who are interested in exploring the full potential of their different dimensions. Ultimately, I wanted to be in a place where I could feel assured of my creativity.
- Isaiah, 26

Are there things that you find tricky or challenging when it comes to every-day living in your warehouse or on the road? Is there something missing?

A bidet? Uh no sorry I know that's such a joke but seriously, there's not that much that is missing from here to me. I like it the way it is. Maybe some more considerate landlords but even the fact that they're not that present is mostly great. We're quite free with our own home because of that.
- @therealtomins

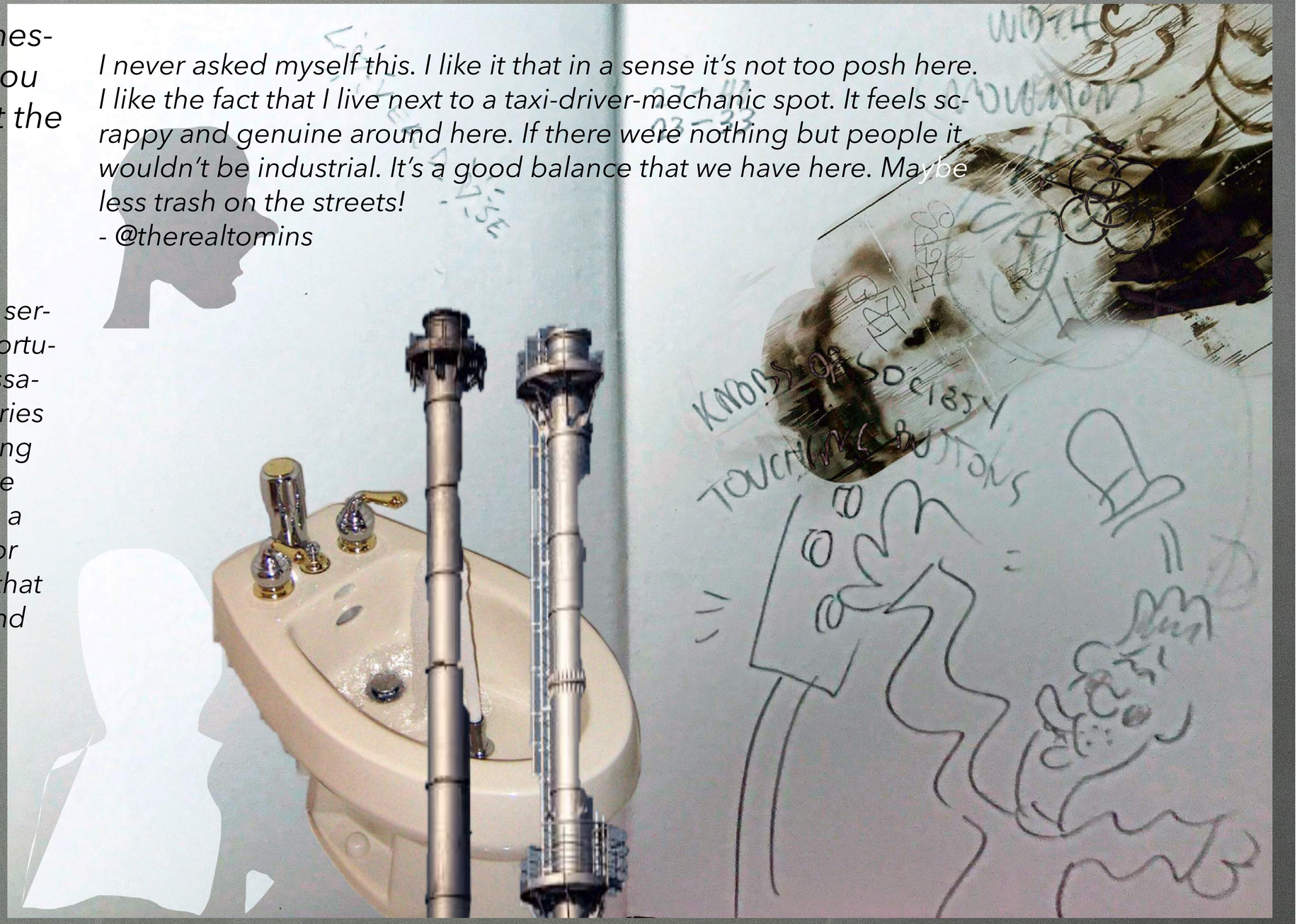
No, thankfully not. Hmm.. Honestly no! If I'd have to dig very deep maybe safety, but again that's a thing that could always be improved.
- Isaiah, 26



What kind of services, businesses and infrastructure do you think is important to support the creative community?

I never asked myself this. I like it that in a sense it's not too posh here. I like the fact that I live next to a taxi-driver-mechanic spot. It feels scrappy and genuine around here. If there were nothing but people it wouldn't be industrial. It's a good balance that we have here. Maybe less trash on the streets!
- @therealtomins

I think that the best way is to have services in the area that provide opportunities and spaces. It doesn't necessarily have to be creative, but industries and services that provide something within the community. In the coffee shop's case, it's to provide people a space to have a local coffee. So, for me it's about giving stuff back so that people don't have to outsource and go away to grab those things.
- Nick, local business owner



How would you like this community to look like in five years?

I honestly don't know. I think I really like how it is right now. I was about to say that some pavement, like on the ground, but then again, the roughness of the area is one of the things that I like here. I like the feeling that it's constantly in progress, like graffiti as an example: they just painted the wall outside white and then someone came and did another graffiti on it straight away! It's like someone's saying "I'm here! You can't erase me!". I wouldn't want the area to change. It feels alive, like a work in progress and I like that because I feel like that's a good reflection of who we are as humans.
- Isaiah, 26

I think for the community to grow it should be expanding. It needs to open and show more that it is a real community. You got this happening in East London, in places like Shoreditch and Bethnal Green, as an example. The heart of East London's community has opened and therefore gained more possibilities to really display who they are, and I don't think that the North London's community, or the community around Tottenham, has been given that opportunity yet. In the next five years I'd like to see more money and more engagement put into the area.
- Nick, local business owner


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