

(Asheville, NC) July 4, 2016, *Transforming Hate: An Artist's Book*, a new book by Clarissa Sligh.

This book evolved from a project for which I folded origami cranes from pages of white supremacist books to create a sculpture for the exhibition, *Speaking Volumes: Transforming Hate*. The exhibition was organized by the Montana Human Rights Network and the Holter Art Museum in Helena, Montana, opened in 2008 and continues to travel around the country.

I am a black woman. I am an artist. In *Transforming Hate: An Artist's Book*, I was exploring what it was like for me to turn the hateful words of the white supremacist books into a beautiful art object. That exploration helped me understand more fully the many levels of oppression and violence at the intersections of race, gender, class and sexual orientation. Creating the *Transforming Hate* book was not the first time I faced the tyranny of hate.

“One’s life sometimes collides with moments in history, causing it to be altered dramatically by external change. Certainly this was so for Clarissa Thompson Sligh. When she was 15 years old she became the lead plaintiff in the 1955 school desegregation case in Virginia (Clarissa Thompson et. al. vs. Arlington County School Board). From that moment forward, her work as a student and as a professional – first in math/science working for NASA, later in business, and finally, in the arts – takes into account change, transformation and complication.”

My new book *Transforming Hate: An Artist's Book* is an invitation to a conversation about the many levels of oppression and violence that keep us separate and apart. The volume includes beautifully reproduced photographs.

“In seeking to understand my own inner turmoil about who we are as a people, I had to face my own terror and fear and the ways it made me feel safe if I averted my eyes or did not look too closely at the dominant narratives about our history and identity, its fictions and reality. I had often accepted the boundaries imposed at the intersections of race, gender, class and sexual orientation. In this way I, too, participated in the decisions about who gets to have rights and who is marginalized in our society. Will I have the courage to live differently?” – Clarissa Sligh, 2016

Book Details: 108 pages including covers and photographs in full color. Perfect bound softcover. 8 x 8 inches. Housed in foldout die-cut box with gold foil origami crane inserted in cover slot. Edition of 1000 signed and numbered by the artist on book's front cover flap. Price: \$50.00. ISBN: 978-1-4951-9695-9. Publication Date: April 2016.

Edition numbered signed copies may be purchased for \$50.00 from:

Vamp and Tramp Booksellers, LLC

E-mail: mail@vampandtramp.com

Telephone : (205) 824-2300

Also available on Amazon.



image: Dan R. Talley, 2016

[download image](#)

About the author-artist:

Sligh has published 10 artists' books including, *Wrongly Bodied: Documenting Transition from Female to Male*, *It Wasn't Little Rock*, *Reading Dick and Jane With Me*, and *What's Happening with Momma?*

Awards include the ICP Infinity Award for the use of photography with other media and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York Foundation for the Arts. Sligh's photographs and artists' books are in collections including the Museum of Modern Art, NY, the George Eastman House, Rochester, NY, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.



image: Kimberly G.
Purser, 2016
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What people are saying:

"It is a beautiful and elegant work of art. Even more, it's the story of your life woven into the life of our nation eloquently and passionately told in your own sensitive and powerful voice." – John Everett Lee, MD and visual artist, Atlanta.

"The book is fabulous on all levels – not only beautifully designed and put together but is an incredible testament to your fight for justice and the hope for our future, so much in need in these strange times." – Tana Kellner, artistic director, Women's Studio Workshop.

"Today, in this country and throughout the world, we witness a horrifying increase in fear of difference, hatred of the Other, extreme nationalism and thoughtless violence. From intimate to global, this war against life is one. *Transforming Hate* is a powerful response. That you have created it as an exquisite artist's book makes even more of an impact: the deep beauty of the "object" reflecting on every page the concept and meaning... how you have used your art, but also your history, memory, fear and courage to make this book." – Margaret Randall, *She Becomes Time*.

For more information about the book and my work go to clarissasligh.com