



Jacket Art

Reclaiming Agency, Power, & the Self

In the performance, *I Want My Jacket Back*, Jenn Freitag sings a story about reclaiming sexual agency, confidence, and hope after sexual assault. Weaving together raw honesty and bits of humor, “Jean Jacket” offers a path toward self-empowerment in the midst of loss: of agency, of power, and of safety. In Jenn’s narrative, finding a new jacket to replace the one she lost at the scene of the assault symbolizes an act of self-love, a statement of renewed confidence, and a reclamation of power.

The Symbolism of the Jacket

A jacket is a coat, a protective covering, something one puts on, wears, bundles into. It can shield one from the elements—cold, wind, rain, snow—it can keep one warm and comfortable. Opening down the front, jackets may be left unbuttoned or tightly zipped. Taking off one’s jacket might demonstrate comfort and vulnerability, or make one feel exposed and bare. A jacket may also be a fashion statement, a performance of one’s identity, a display of one’s mood or personality. A jacket is also a sleeve, envelope, or folder holding documents or other materials; or, it is any exterior covering. For Jenn, the statement “I Want My Jacket Back” acknowledges loss, demands restitution, and asserts the self as a powerful agent. Though a lost jacket may never be retrieved, new jackets can be acquired or created through self-love, support from others, creative expression, and numerous paths of healing.

Invitations for Jacket Art

On April 29 at 6pm, Jenn will perform *I Want My Jacket Back* at the Carbondale Civic Center as a part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month events. The Women’s Center invites “Jacket Art” to be displayed during the performance, which features “Jean Jacket” and several other pieces in which Jenn explores various aspects of gender violence issues using personal narrative, poetry, music, and humor. In addition to inviting dialogue with the audience throughout the show, Jenn will also offer an opportunity for participants to share how their Jacket Art represents how they have reclaimed, or how they envision reclaiming agency, power, and the self after experiencing an act of gender violence. Art from individuals of all gender identities, backgrounds, and experiences is welcome to be displayed during the performance; verbal sharing is optional. To participate, individuals should create any kind of art piece (decorated jacket, painting, photography, collage, etc.) that includes a jacket in some way and explores the theme of reclaiming agency, power, and the self. Jacket Art should be brought to The Women’s Center at 610 S. Thompson Street in Carbondale by Friday, April 26 and may be retrieved immediately following the performance. For questions or more information, contact Jenn at 618.549.4807 x251 or racsprevention2@thewomensctr.org.

I Want My Jacket Back

exploring new ways to think & talk about gender violence

