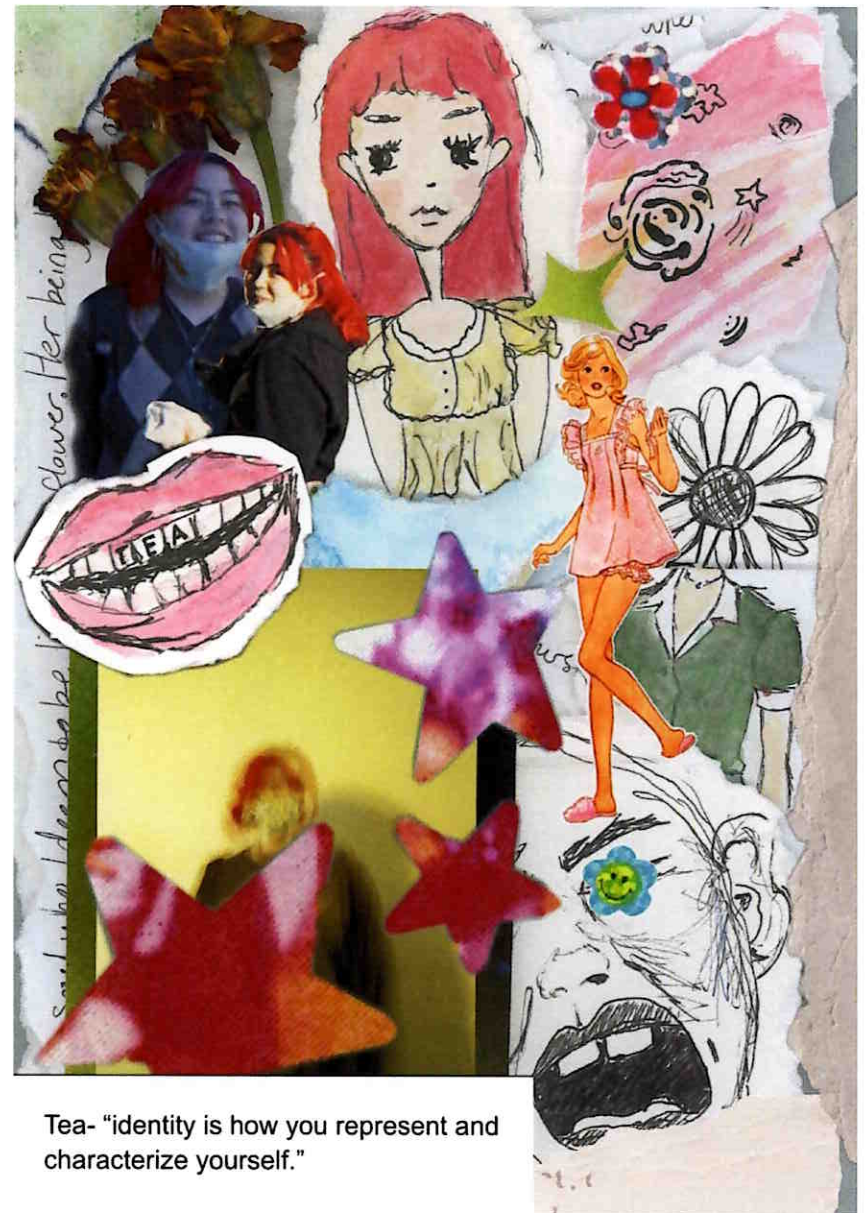
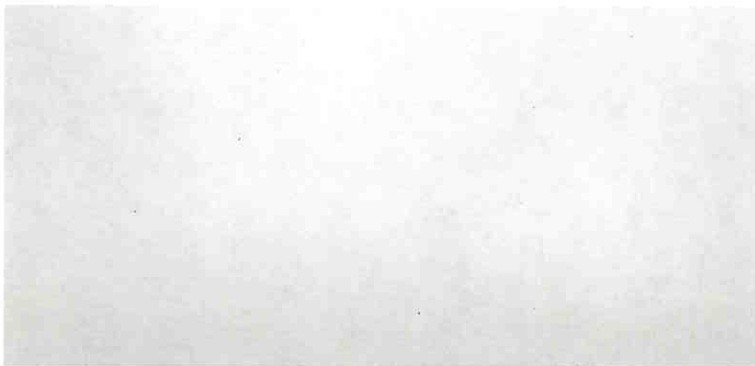




MARKER



As a child I was always drawn to the peach-colored crayon when it came to coloring my skin. While I did it out of innocence, the crayon I always chose to signify my skin color was an indicator of my struggling racial identity. This piece is what I refused to do as a child, it's me having the capacity to acknowledge and embrace my racial identity.



Tea- "identity is how you represent and characterize yourself."



Stereotypes have been used to regulate Black bodies.

Particularly, they have been imposed on Black women for which to portray us in reductive ways to deny the lived experiences and identities Black women hold.

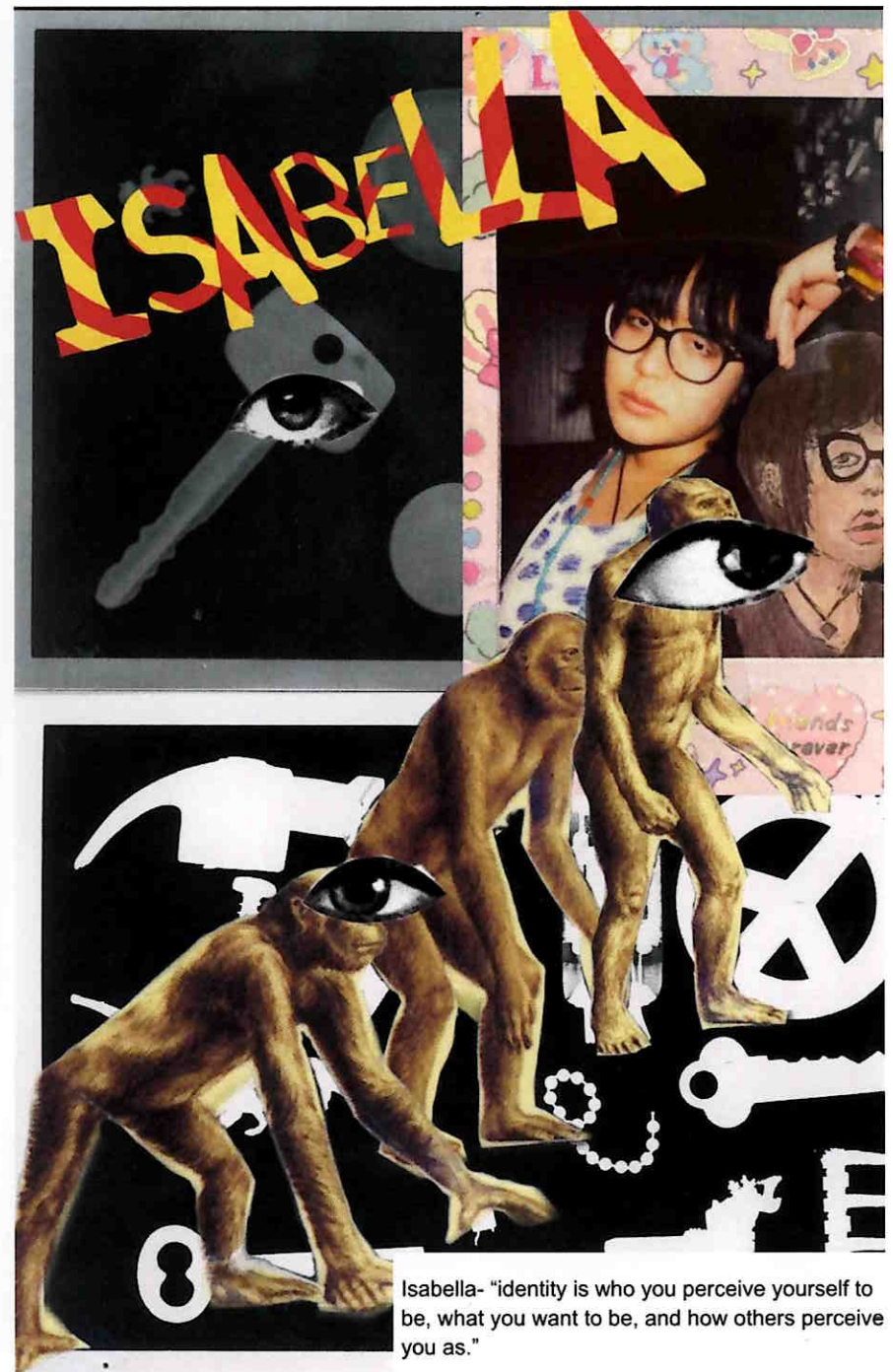
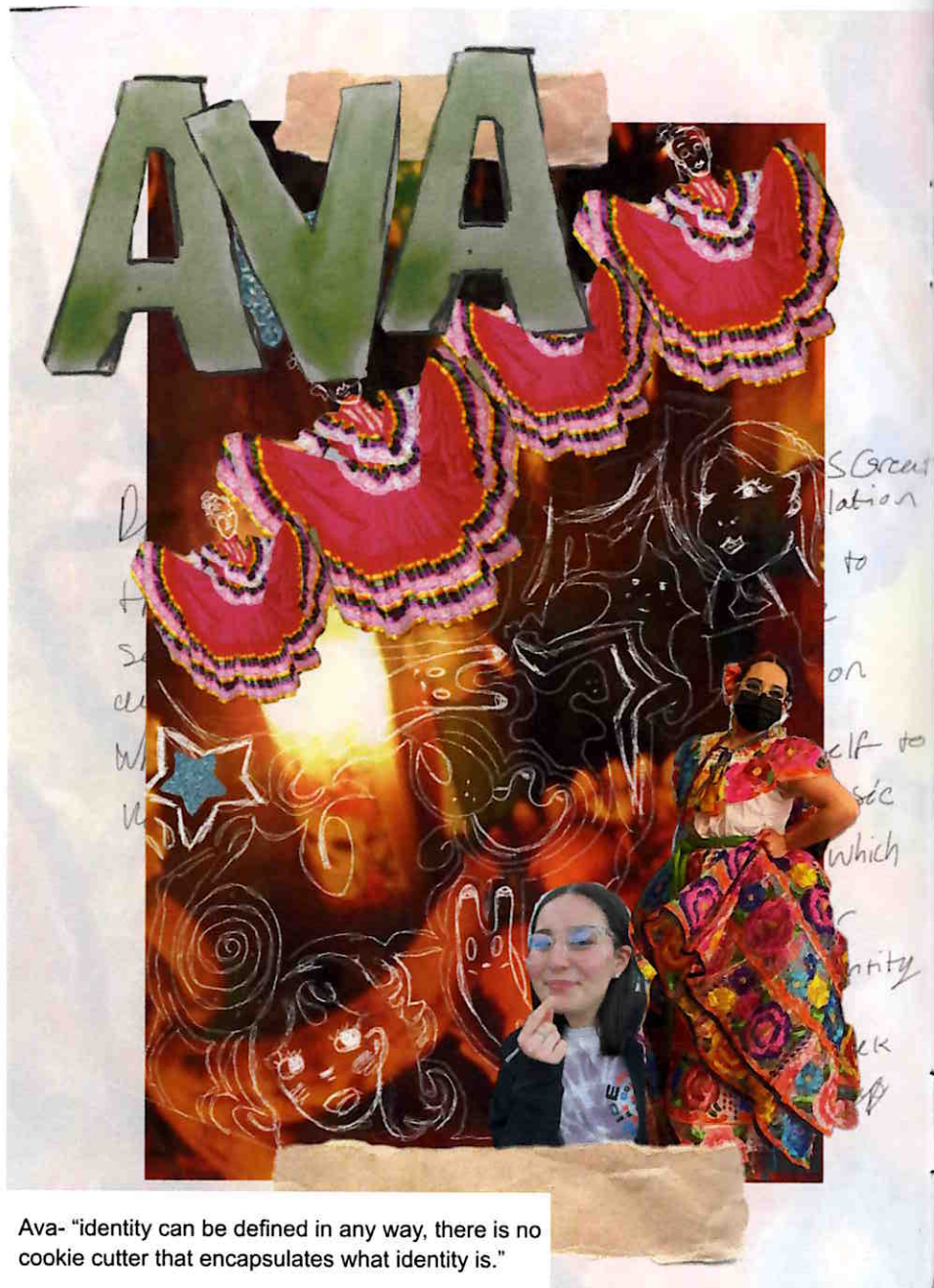
It is a tool used to commodify the identity and sexuality of Black women.





Jovi- "identity is our profile and the portrayal of ourselves."









Japan has always been a country that has held great pride and a sense of national identity through its racial and ethnic homogeneity. For a long time, being African American and Japanese had instilled a strong sense of guilt; I felt as if I encroached on the culture and history of Japan and carried out a disservice to the people. I now come to understand that to "be Japanese" is to simply be Japanese.



There is a significant value in understanding the concept of identity and what that entails in contemporary society. Acknowledging our multifaceted identities allow us to understand how it plays a role in determining our experience and understanding of the world.

With that, identity is a concept far more emphasized in the youth. We have come to a new age of individuals who manifest individuality and embrace self-expression. This zine is a small, but interesting portrayal of identity and what that could look like in a diverse and expressive generation of youth.