

STONEWALL

By Grace Hwang



Why I'm interested in this artifact

I am personally interested in this artifact specifically due to its association with The Stonewall Inn. Its connection to Stonewall gives power to Stonewall being the birth of the gay rights movement. However, it comes with erasure as to who exactly was the catalyst for the movement.

I only went to Stonewall recently as it was an amazing experience. With that experience, I wanted to have a better understanding behind the history especially because I've been previously exposed to some misinformation that mainstream media has been portraying.



This artifact is related to the themes in class

Marsha P. Johnson was overshadowed by mainstream media by her white peers. She was a black, queer, gender-conforming, and poor person who made many strives through activism for those in similar places in life.

Many times people of color are often overshadowed and their accomplishments are not seen and sometimes even erased. It is important to not allow history to be twisted and not credit those who were key figures in something as important as the Gay Rights Movement.



This artifact contributes to understanding urban life

At times, there are many marginalized people who end up being taken over by gentifiers or by more privileged people. The hard work of activism are even overshadowed by others. An understanding needs to be made that people of all sorts of backgrounds exist living in this city. Without them, what makes NYC NYC? The history, the struggles, the loss, and gain are all part of the city and makes it so special. It is important to remember that the rights that were gained have always come from the struggles of others. And here we have the right to be open and queer to a degree that no other state (except California) has. Many states are still struggling with establishing gay rights and having that here in NYC can feel like such a privilege.