

“BUSHWICK COLLECTIVE”
By Kimberly Pacheco

WHY AM I INTERESTED IN THIS ARTIFACT?

- I chose the Bushwick Collective because it is a nice place to walk see nice graffitis and take pictures.
- My dad lived closed to bushwick, specifically around Meserole street back in the 80s, so he has told me how his experience living in that area was.
- The Bushwick Collective does not consist only of the art muras/graffitis, but of bars, and restaurants, which has changed the perspective of the actual Bushwick compared to what it was before.



(This was back in 2018)

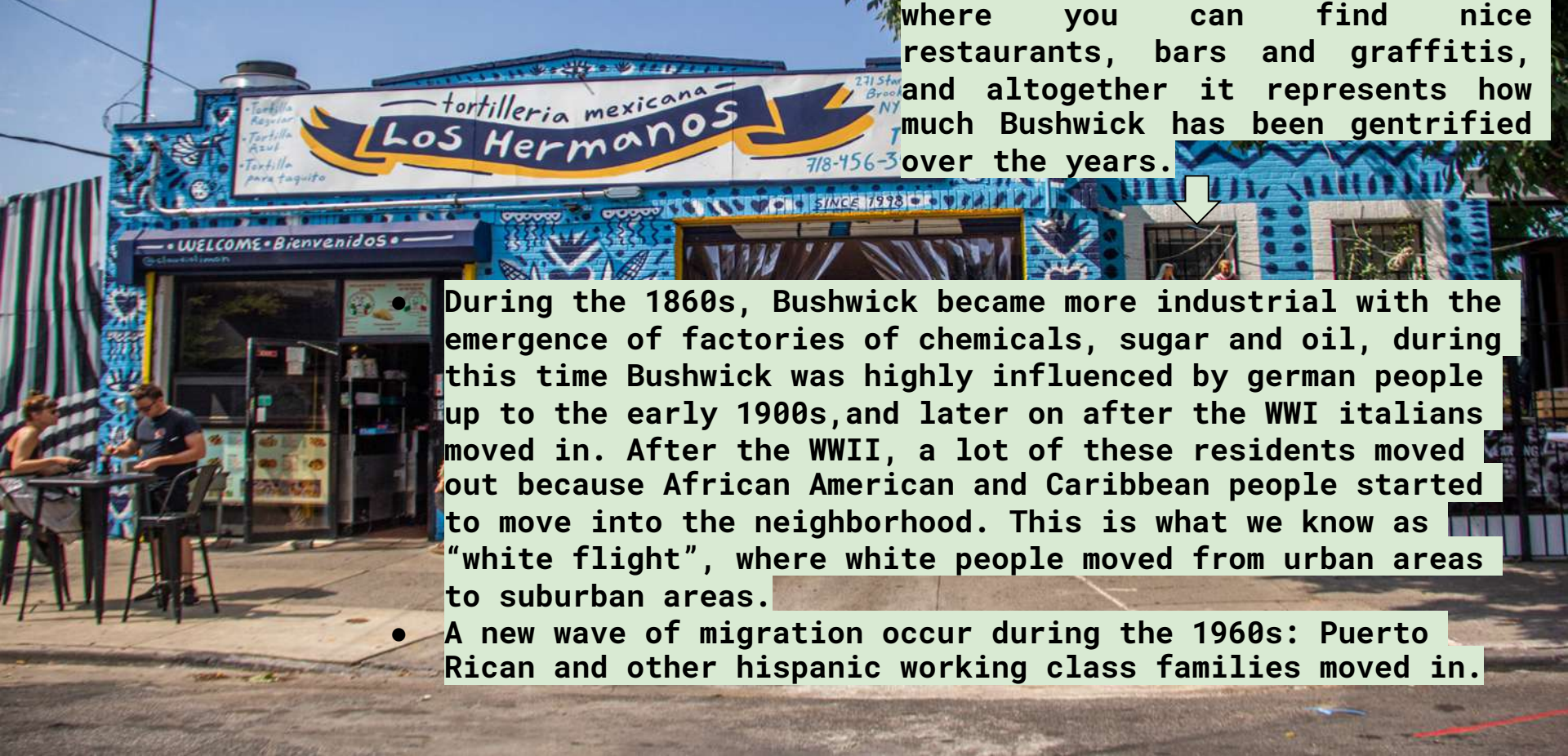


HOW DOES THIS ARTIFACT RELATE TO THE THEMES WE HAVE DISCUSSED IN CLASS? P.1

As I mentioned before, the Bushwick Collective is an area where you can find nice restaurants, bars and graffitis, and altogether it represents how much Bushwick has been gentrified over the years.

During the 1860s, Bushwick became more industrial with the emergence of factories of chemicals, sugar and oil, during this time Bushwick was highly influenced by german people up to the early 1900s, and later on after the WWI italians moved in. After the WWII, a lot of these residents moved out because African American and Caribbean people started to move into the neighborhood. This is what we know as "white flight", where white people moved from urban areas to suburban areas.

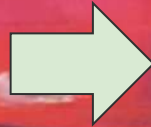
- A new wave of migration occur during the 1960s: Puerto Rican and other hispanic working class families moved in.



HOW DOES THIS ARTIFACT RELATES TO THE THEMES WE HAVE DISCUSSED IN CLASS? P.2

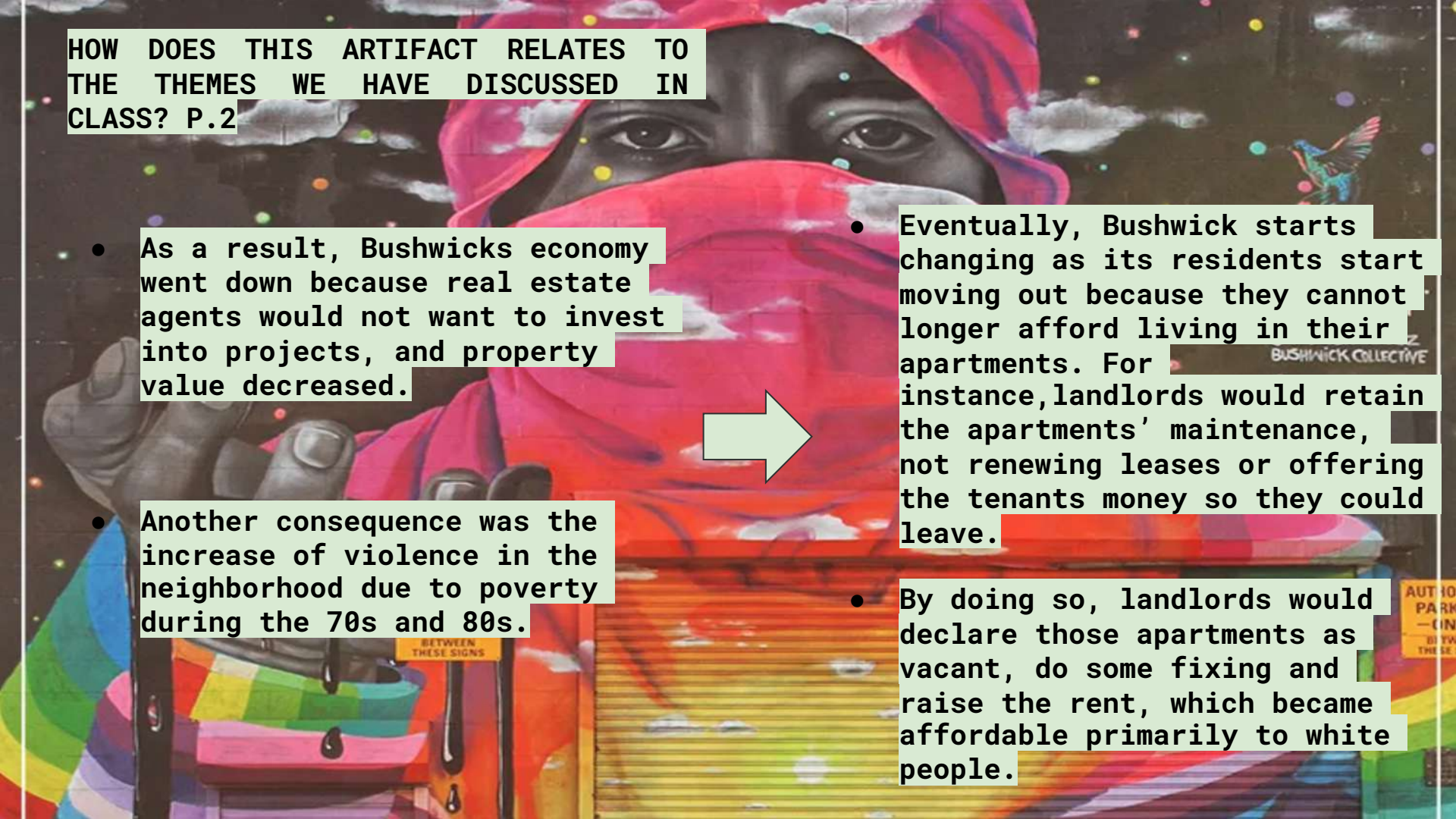
- As a result, Bushwicks economy went down because real estate agents would not want to invest into projects, and property value decreased.

- Another consequence was the increase of violence in the neighborhood due to poverty during the 70s and 80s.

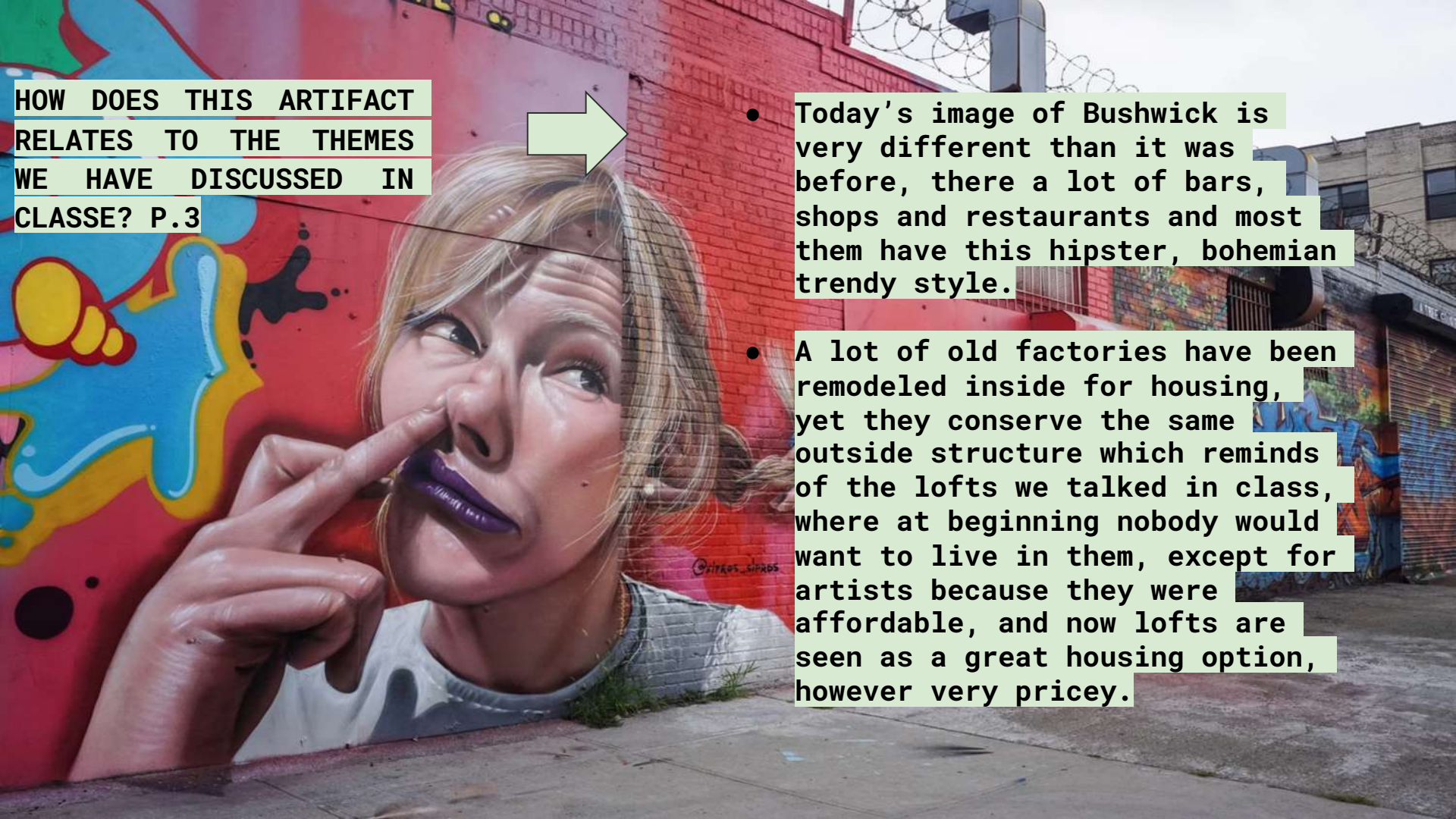


- Eventually, Bushwick starts changing as its residents start moving out because they cannot longer afford living in their apartments. For instance, landlords would retain the apartments' maintenance, not renewing leases or offering the tenants money so they could leave.

- By doing so, landlords would declare those apartments as vacant, do some fixing and raise the rent, which became affordable primarily to white people.

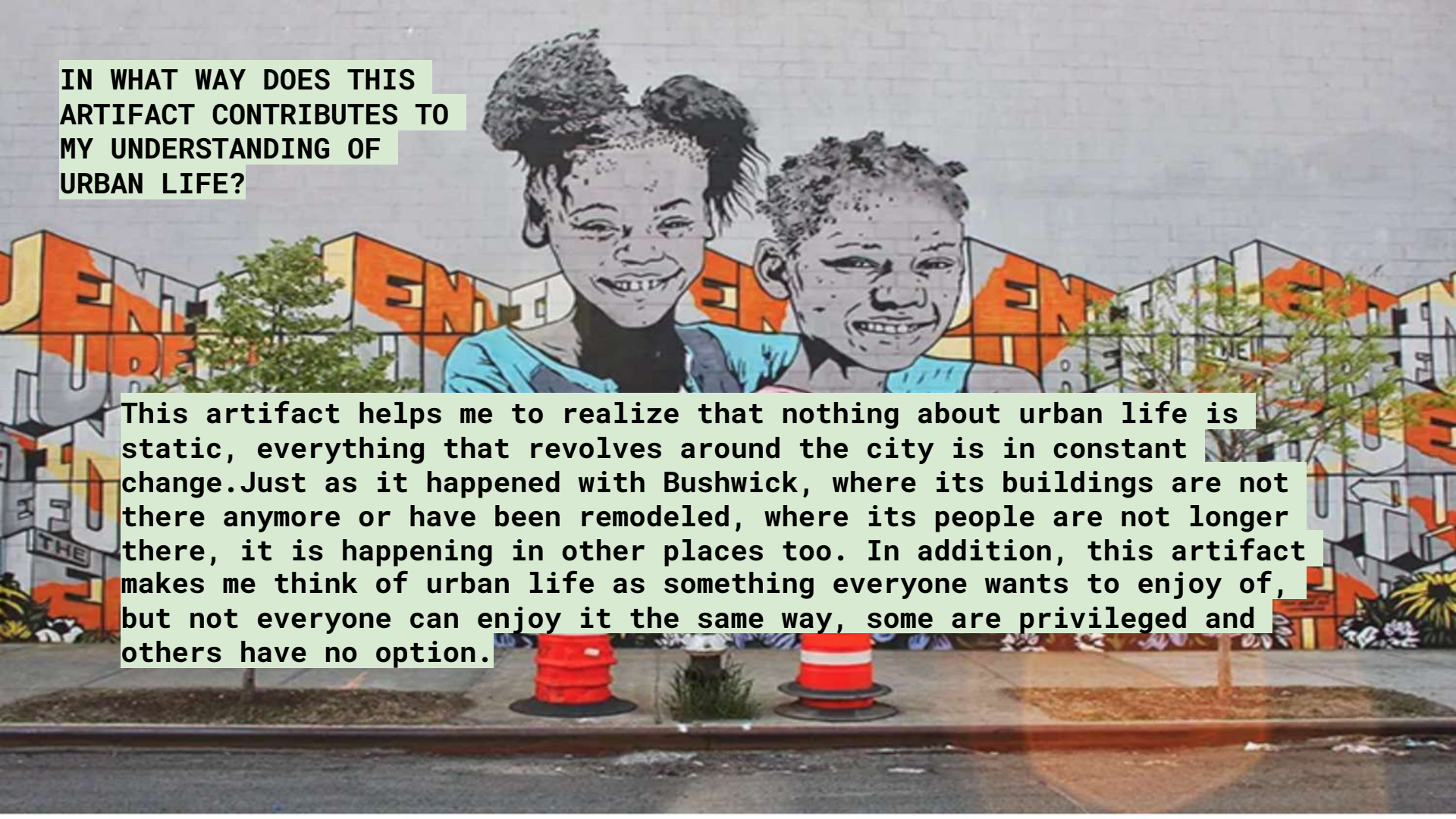


HOW DOES THIS ARTIFACT
RELATES TO THE THEMES
WE HAVE DISCUSSED IN
CLASSE? P.3



- Today's image of Bushwick is very different than it was before, there a lot of bars, shops and restaurants and most them have this hipster, bohemian trendy style.
- A lot of old factories have been remodeled inside for housing, yet they conserve the same outside structure which reminds of the lofts we talked in class, where at beginning nobody would want to live in them, except for artists because they were affordable, and now lofts are seen as a great housing option, however very pricey.

IN WHAT WAY DOES THIS
ARTIFACT CONTRIBUTES TO
MY UNDERSTANDING OF
URBAN LIFE?

A photograph of a mural on a wall. The mural depicts two young girls with dark skin and curly hair, smiling broadly. They are wearing light blue tops. Behind them is a stylized, colorful building facade with large, blocky letters in orange, yellow, and grey. The scene is set outdoors, with a sidewalk and two orange traffic barrels in the foreground.

This artifact helps me to realize that nothing about urban life is static, everything that revolves around the city is in constant change. Just as it happened with Bushwick, where its buildings are not there anymore or have been remodeled, where its people are not longer there, it is happening in other places too. In addition, this artifact makes me think of urban life as something everyone wants to enjoy of, but not everyone can enjoy it the same way, some are privileged and others have no option.