

3/

VULNERABILITY



IS

LEMONADE
BOG

KYLE
RUBINI

Can you provide examples where vulnerability has enhanced creativity?
This question seems too easy. Most good art is created through raw vulnerability. Life gives people lemons & they make creative lemonade. This once trite phrase has evolved into a ubiquitous symbol for creative underdog art. Audiences LOVE vulnerability. Any Drag Race fan can tell you that vulnerability is an entertainment buzzword.

The franchise encourages its drag queen contestants to channel vulnerability into their powerful moments, led to some incredibly art + work - and it's

Vulnerability is the crucial, human element of art.



If art is about connection, then vulnerability is what connects us.

Now that vulnerability is known as the special ingredient of the creative process, new questions emerge. Is vulnerability merely speaking your truth? Or is speaking your truth now an empty gesture? Public confessions once signalled that someone had overcome their demons, healed from trauma, and arrived at a place ready for public advocacy. SO, what about people who confess before they're ready? WHAT about when people exaggerate their truth? We now live in a world that PRESSURES creatives to E-X-P-O-S-E themselves. Public confessions aren't always helpful, they can often cause the confessor further pain and trauma. And FOR WHAT?

Vulnerability is more than public confessions, but current pop psychology seems to equate these things. Public confessions can be incredibly moving - Roxxy's breakdown in season 5 of drag race was received well by fans. It was the first time she'd let herself cry over her abandonment.

My mother left my sister and myself at a bus stop when I was 3. I remember it like it was yesterday.

Roxxy Andrews

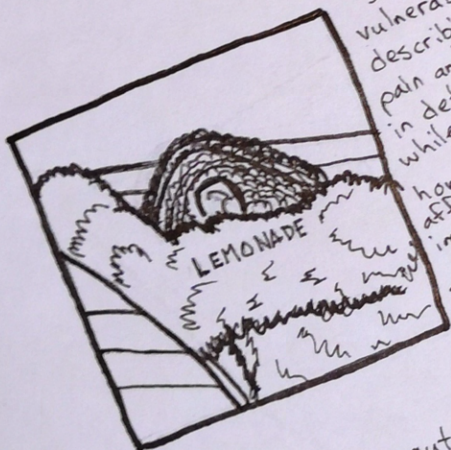
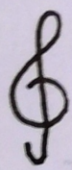
My first sexual experience I was raped at a college party. And from that I've looked to find pretty things.

Blair St Clair

Other times, these public confessions are judged as less sincere. When Blair St Clair disclosed her sexual assault in season 10, fans were less kind. Season 6 winner Bianca Del Rio even mocked her in a comedy act.

For me, the epitome of vulnerability is Beyoncé's Lemonade. After the infamous Solange/Jay Z elevator fight, rumours about Beyoncé's marriage were out of control. The most popular rumour? Solange attacked Jay Z for cheating on Beyoncé. Queen Bey was silent on the matter, until Lemonade.

This video album was her response. She casually acknowledges Jay Z's infidelity as fact and reorients the public that had been obsessed with the question of Did HE do IT?!



She embodies vulnerability, describing her pain and emotions in detail, all while knowing how this could affect her public image of flawless perfection.

Herein lies the beauty of vulnerability. the power to contextualize individual experiences into the broader narrative. Lemonade is more than an album. It's an admission of imperfection, it's a power move. it's Beyoncé reclaiming her narrative. It's the ultimate act of vulnerability.

You can taste the dishonesty
It's all over your breath

Beyoncé describes more than heartbreak. Lemonade shows her on a journey tracing of slavery + ancestral history of slavery + trauma have come to shape black family contemporary life. She doesn't relieve Jay Z of his guilt, she steps back to acknowledge patterns of intergenerational trauma. Then, she breaks the pattern and stays.

To ever
I'm not
too
perfect

this worthless



DEDICATED TO MOM'S LEMON TREE
YOU WERE BEAUTIFUL
BUT ALSO A SAFETY HAZARD
SACRIFICED IN 2017