

TOOLKIT WE GIVE A SPECIAL SOMEONE UNIQUE TOOLS TO ANSWER A TRICKY QUESTION

QUESTION: What does your favorite song look like?

VICTIM: Elizabeth Jameson—guitarist, founder of the pop-tastic Buttersprites, and internationally known visual artist.

TOOLS: Lipstick, blank cassette, lawn grass.

Jameson: I've always wanted to be the type of person that starts riots, leads a revolution, and takes a stand. Listening to "White Riot" by the Clash makes me feel that I could be that kind of person, and I get the urge to run out my front door and shout out to the world what I really think. If you are inclined to start a revolution, you may be met with resistance and tear-gas, so I've designed an urban-punk gas mask to protect and maximize your riot-ability.

I loved the lipstick. It worked better than a high-quality oil pastel. [It] drew on and blended beautifully—no clumping—and also happened to be my favorite color: Chinese lacquer orange-red. The other items were difficult as they were unwieldy. I had to find a way to beat them into submission so I could control them. The cassette I took apart ... and cut the tape into squares and used them like tiles to "draw" the outline. Several plastic components of the cassette became goggles for the gas mask.

I liked being able to incorporate the cassette into the image because the first time I heard "White Riot" was on a mix-tape a friend made me. And then there was the grass. It was incorrigible. It never did what I wanted to. Some of it ended up as a half-assed mohawk on the gas mask, while the rest of it is strewn rebelliously about my studio. Nature is so punk rock.

