

“from all sides”

A gallery-based discussion on the essay “[The Kidnapped Children of Detroit](#)” by Marsha Music

featuring contributions by *Kate Levy, Kathleen Rashid, Carl Wilson* and others

25 October – 15 November 2014

Background:

Marsha Music's remarkable autobiographical essay [“The Kidnapped Children of Detroit”](#) starts with a child's eye view of white flight out of the city, long underway by the 1960's, and ends with a discussion of current issues around gentrification and “white flight in”. Although undoubtedly written from a personal viewpoint, it distinguishes itself by seeing the issues surrounding race relations in the city, and the corresponding traumatic population shifts, from a wide range of perspectives. In its honesty and generosity, it manages to transcend the standard narratives of blame and development without sacrificing the need to tell the history of what happened to the people of the city. It suggests the need for atonement between the city and suburbs, and for mutual respect between old and new residents.

In this gallery-based discussion, we will read the essay, write it out on the gallery walls, present other artwork that is consistent with the spirit and/or content of the essay, and display personal responses to the essay solicited both directly and through open-call. We welcome all responses, which can be mailed to kidnappedchildren@fastmail.fm and which will be printed out and displayed.