Let's talk Credits!

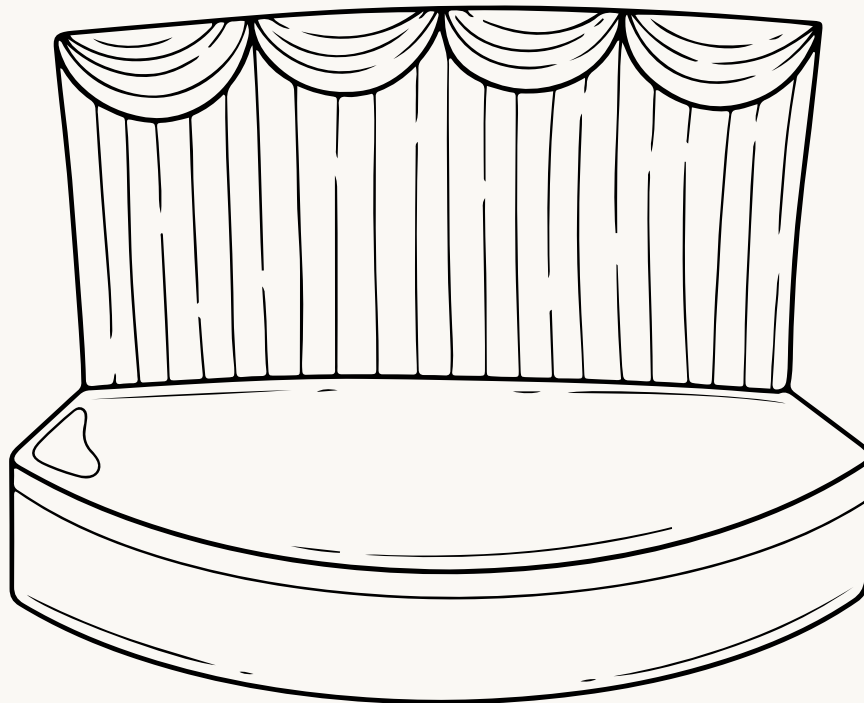(a concept for artists, creatives and collaborators)

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by Sarah U 余衍晴

Credits looks different in different contexts.

In movies , every role is listed.
In other contexts, crediting can be more informal, selective, or even overlooked.

So the main question is...
"How do I decide if a contribution should be publicly and formally credited?"

This distinction point is called **Demarcation** ,
it is also called....

The "heat point"

where..

- Inspiration blurs into appropriation

- Influence shapes contribution

- Authorship becomes a power negotiation

some guidelines...

Did the person give labor or time specifically to your project?

One-time or informal help → Acknowledgment

Ongoing input → Contributor credit

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Did the person contribute to the actual development or creation of the work?

Yes? → Consider formal credit (e.g., "dancer," "dramaturg," "composer," etc.).

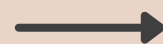No, but they were an influence? → Consider an acknowledgment (e.g., "This work was inspired by...").

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Was their contribution essential to shaping your final idea, concept, or method?

→ If yes, that moves beyond inspiration.

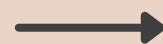→ Consider crediting them as a collaborator or contributor.

What is the power dynamic between you and the person being credited?

→can you have an open conversation with your contributors about if/ how they want to be credited?

→Some people have more knowledge, institutional power / access to funding than others, can you help bridge the gap?

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What does a credit do for a person?

Visibility
Recognition
Future opportunities
Protection

It shapes who gets:

👁 Seen
📝 Remembered

and reflects how we care for each other.

→

Why I care?

Because I value the people I work with —
their time, labor, creativity, and presence.

Because I want to build respectful, long-lasting relationships
that goes beyond a project.

Because credit shapes who gets seen and remembered.
And historically, that has never been neutral.

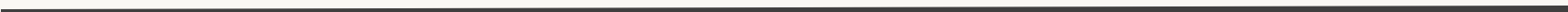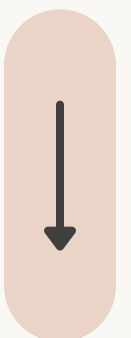Because some folks have more access to power + visibility,.

Crediting with care helps shift that — even just a little.

Community care is built one choice at a time.

Let this be one of them.

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