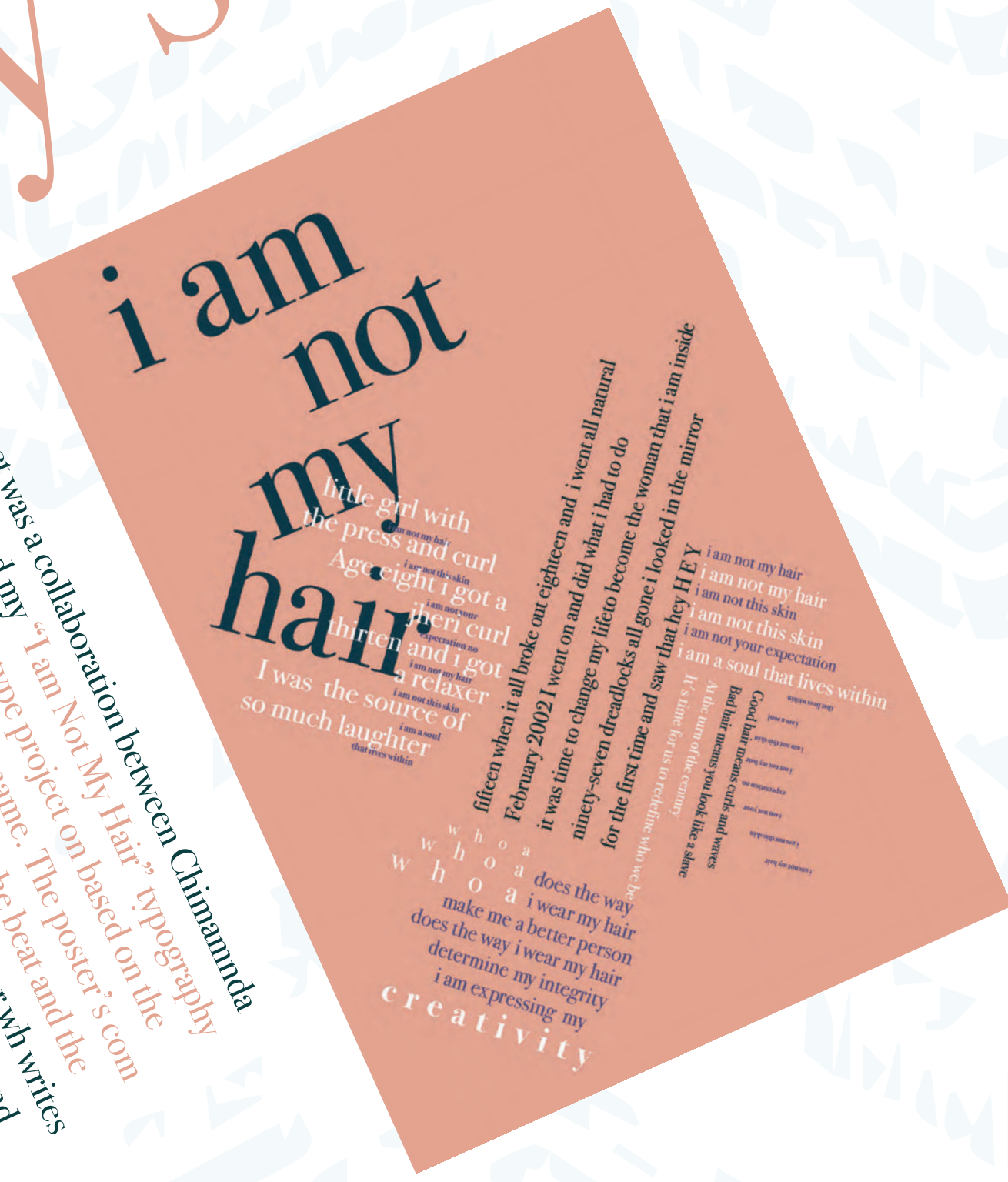


the whole someness of many stories



This project was a collaboration between Chinamanda Ngozi Adichie and my "I am Not My Hair" typography poster. My poster was a type project on based on the song by India Arie of the same name. The poster's composition is based on how I translated the beat and the feeling of the song. Ngozi is a Nigerian author who writes about topics concerning African identity in Africa and the African diaspora. Her famous TED The Danger of a Single Story talks about the problem of reducing the complexity of human beings to that of one simple story.



Stories matter. Many stories matter. Stories have been used to dispossess and to malign, but stories can also be used to empower and to humanize. Stories can break the dignity of a people, but stories can also repair that broken dignity. When we reject the single story, when we realize that there is never a single story about any place, we regain a kind of paradise.

This quote from "The Danger of a Single Story" is the inspiration for this collaboration. I chose several quotes from Ngozi's several published books which include Americanah, Half of a Yellow Sun, and Purple Hibiscus. These quotes all tell the many stories of what it means to be African and to be African in the United States. These quotes have been arranged to invoke the power of Ngozi's TED talk and the composition mirrors a sound wave captured as she proclaimed her famous quote.

“ There are two answers to the things they will teach to you about our land: *the real answer* and the answer you give in school to pass. You must read books and learn **both answers.** ”

“ He hardly spoke Igbo and although Jaja and I spoke it with Mama at home, he did not like us to speak it in public. We had to sound civilized in public, he told us we had to speak English. ”

“ Dear Non-American Black, when you make the choice to come to America, you become black. Stop arguing. Stop saying I'm Jamaican or I'm Ghanaian. **America doesn't care** ”

the only authentic identity for the African is the tribe...I am Nigerian because a white man created Nigeria and gave me that identity. I am black because the white man constructed black to be as different as possible from his white. But I was *Igbo* before the white man came.