



**GROUNDSWELL
INSTITUTE
PRESENTS:**



REVOLUTION

**MARCH 3RD TO
MARCH 5TH 2017**

WWW.GROUNDSWELL.INSTITUTE

WELCOME TO GROUNDSWELL INSTITUTE AND COMMUNITY

Groundswell is an unique project that explores the intersection of community, ecology, and queer paradigms.

Consisting of a non-profit retreat center and a developing residential ecovillage, Groundswell nurtures the cooperative ecology and culture that are essential for a sustainable future.

The non-profit Groundswell Institute creates visionary queer consciousness-raising and environmental programs, while also renting out the facilities to like-minded groups or individuals to gather for transformation.

The residential ecovillage lives across the creek from the retreat center, helping steward the land, maintaining permaculture-based agricultural systems, and helping provide the people power to run the nonprofit. Together, the Institute and community work to create sustainable natural and human ecologies that invite people in to create a more conscious, connected, and cooperative culture.

MUSE: REVOLUTION A QUEER CREATIVES RETREAT

MUSE: Revolution is a place for queer creatives of all kinds to focus on art as we ask ourselves how we can help spread queerness throughout the world and keep our revolution going. With a socially and politically turbulent year behind us and choppy waters ahead, we must focus our efforts and find our place and purpose within the struggle to hold on to the progress we have achieved as a community and a society in decades past. This retreat is our way of focusing on in on that. The world needs the perspective of queer artists now, more than ever before. Those of us who still feel safe putting our queerness out in the world, help all those with less of a voice to keep hope, and to find their own strength and resilience in these frightening times.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Catalyzing Conversation w/ Beatrice Thomas & Kyle DeVries

The writing's on the wall and it's no Banksy. Our worlds, as queer artists, are already changing. Our communities again face increased institutional violence and attack of our basic human rights. Looming funding threats to the National Endowment for the Arts only add to our challenges as artists. The work that we do is vital to sustaining our culture and visibility. We are reflections of the past and visions of the future. For nothing changes hearts and minds like art.

Join us on a guided community discussion designed to collect data on the challenges and opportunities we face as queer artists and brainstorm strategies for sustainability and revolution. In order to survive and thrive as artists we are gonna' to need a plan. This is our first step!

Led by Artist, Coach and consultant Beatrice Thomas and Groundswell Institute Executive Director Kyle DeVries.

FRI 3:00pm in the Dining Hall

Queeriosities Cabaret w/ LOL McFiercen

The 'cabaret' has a celebrated history of queer sanctuary and visibility, art, sexuality, and political discourse that challenges mainstream ideologies and acts as space for refuge and jubilation. On Friday night's Queeriosities Cabaret we invite performers to reflect on the history and future of 'cabaret' as a host for political discussion around not only mainstream politics, but the artist's role in our highly-politicized society. Whether you share your writings, visual art and media, favorite protest songs or original music, or artistic and drag performance, we challenge participants to bring your own personal flavor of Revolution!

FRI 10:00pm at the Fire Pit (or Dining Hall if raining)

Audre Lorde and James Baldwin Arts Salon w/ Dean Disaster

On Saturday night the Audre Lorde and James Baldwin Arts Salon will be an opportunity for all artists in attendance to show their work in an unconventional gallery-like setting. This year, to fit the theme, we're asking for a focus on politically oriented art works. Note from the Curator: I am looking for work that makes people uncomfortable, makes them think, and gets them out of their bubble; including me! If I see a sample of your work or read your proposal and it makes me squirm, that is perfect.

SAT 9:30pm in the Living Room/Dining Hall

WORKSHOPS

There are three different workshop tracks at MUSE: Revolution.

Learn will be focused on arts skills and projects,

Act Up about creating social and political change through art,
and **Thrive** on how to succeed as an artist.

FRIDAY

Prop-a-ganda: Dissection & Defense w/ Dam Dyke

History is laden with the use of propaganda art to convey visceral messages and edicts of deception. Propaganda is an art form of heavy handed graphic design and selective symbolism. It can be used for good or for ill depending entirely on context. (That's propaganda for propaganda.)

This session will have a precursor discussion of the history of propaganda in the 20th century & contemporary uses surfacing almost daily in the 21st century. From Bolsheviks to Breitbart, the use of propaganda can even be found in those frequently cross posted memes on social media. While we are bound to see more and more use of this age old tactic for political communication during an isolationist and nationalist time period, developing skills of indentifying and dissecting propaganda may be a useful skill for us all to codevelop. Not only to be critical of the newly fledged regime, but usual to harness it's potential for the Resistance efforts.

Following the discussion portion, we'll engage in creating/ sketching a propaganda piece of our own in smaller groups or as individuals as we choose. Bring sketch materials and media of your preference, sketch pads and rolls of trace will be available. **Act up FRI 5:00pm in the Dining Hall**

RPG Therapy: Roleplaying as a Creative Response to the Empathy Gap w/ Mark Santillo

Interest in interactive storytelling has grown as we've learned to perceive value in user-generated content and shared experiences. We can also use this unique artform to model empathy for the "other," by placing people directly (but virtually) into scenarios that challenge their preconceptions and call upon them to seek understanding. It's interactive theater as therapy.



Roll a Wisdom check we'll explore the possibilities!

Learn FRI 5:00pm in the Annex

SATURDAY

Screen Printing: Art on the Front Line w/ Ethan "Heathen" Cameron

The front line is everywhere, so have your message on hand at all times – whether it's apparel, protest posters, or radical imagery. Come explore the art and methods of screen printing (also known as silk screening). We will be covering how to prepare and make silk screens, what kinds of materials to use, basic techniques, and creating printed art.

Large-size paper will be provided for making posters. If you have a piece of apparel or fabric that you'd like to print on, feel free to bring that too.

This workshop will be split into two parts: the first will cover the technical aspects of how to make a silk screen, the second will be the printing itself. **Learn SAT 10:00am in Tidrik Lodge**

WRITING FROM THE WILD w/ Hunt Scarritt

Have you ever wanted to supercharge your creativity? Come to WRITING FROM THE WILD and write from that deep fertile WILDNESS within. Wear loose fitting clothing. Be prepared to sit in a chair or on the ground for 10 minutes. Be prepared to move slowly, mindfully, playfully. SHARE a story with a partner, then listen to theirs. Bring pencil and paper (or anything to write with: laptop, etc.) and WRITE and SHARE your work. Developed at the Atlantic Center for the Arts, WRITING FROM THE WILD is for anyone who wants to deepen their artistic practice and experience what Natalie Goldberg calls the Wild Mind.

BE CREATIVE. BE WILD. BE FREE. 90 minutes.

Learn SAT 10:00am in the Annex

Drawing Revolution w/ Jose Joaquin Figueroa

A talk revolving around the role of "drawing" on the recording and narration of queer-stories. How this workshop/talk goes:

- 1- Making emphasis on drawings that depict LGBTQ spaces including Groundswell, Faerie Freedom Village, Marshall's beach, Ida and Short Mountain I show part of my drawing archive.
- 2- I talk about the evolution of the archive and its rhetorical power in terms of creating historical documents of events that have value, yet lack visibility. (cont'd)

- 3- I state my thoughts on revolution.
- 4- Participants engage with the topic, ask questions & talk back.
- 5- Some draw using new strategies or their own while others model revolution while talking revolution.
- 6- We make a new tableaux.

Act Up SAT 10:00am in the Dining Hall

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Photography of Queer Resistance w/ Dot

This is a hands on photography workshop where we will all compose, model, and photograph images that communicate the resistance that is in our hearts. These images will be used as part of campaign against the Trump Administration in America, and Fascism around the world.

Learn SAT 2:45pm in the Dining Hall

Revolutionary Art for Well-Meaning White People w/ Kevin “LOL” Seaman & Christopher White

If your work does not address white privilege, chances are it's unknowingly perpetuating it. Similarly, many well-meaning white people address issues of sexism, xenophobia and other forms of oppression in their work...yet sometimes end up falling a little flat, or even reinforcing the oppression they seek to end. How can we ensure the work we are creating calls out patriarchy without preserving it? Creating political work is never cut and dry, and sometimes it's difficult to anticipate the full impact of our work despite best intentions.

Join GSA Network's Christopher White, PhD and artist/cultural worker Kevin Seaman in a workshop designed to give revolutionary artists the skills they need to create socially relevant and thoughtful art that subverts oppression. This workshop is open to all, but focuses on helping those with privilege (specifically white men) to more deeply understand how to leverage their privilege to promote equity and inclusivity.

Over the course of this 2-hour exploratory workshop, participants will learn about offering and accepting critical feedback, de-centering the white male experience, and how best to affirm yourself as an ally for communities in need.

Act Up SAT 2:45pm in the Living Room

The Artist as “Value Proposition:” Generating Opportunities by Working with Business w/ Mark Santillo

From the perspective of a marketing professional, examining they ways that artists can engage the business and non-profit communities to generate new sources of income, further their vision, and be heard. **Thrive SAT 2:45pm in the Annex**

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The Bawdy Divine: Burlesque as Ritual and Revolution w/ Irene McCalphin

Our sacred body contains the vibrations for radical manifestation. This workshop is part play, part vulnerability and all about harnessing the energy of erotic movement as a means to raise energy, shield, create space, manifest desires and heal thine own sacred self.

From this space of empowerment we will show how music and movement, symbols and songs fit together to create cathartic and challenging peices that speak from the heart to the heart while humanizing and healing.

Act Up SAT 5:00pm in the Dining Hall



Irene performs as Magnolia Black

FREAK THE MIGHTY

based, exciting, fun, energetic, and theatrical. All my queens, kings, and in betweens most welcome. This will be a time to revel and rebel in our splendor, stage presence, and political excellence. Bring your open heart, your inner diva, your radical ways and lets make magic! Let's be each others muses!

Act Up SUN 1:00pm in Tidrik Lodge

THE REVOLUTION IS MY BOYFRIEND : Queer Guerilla Filmmaking as Revolutionary Action w/ Aron Cantor

Guerilla filmmaking is the act of creating in the face of limitations and against the status quo. As queer artists it is our duty to use our voices, be loud, confrontational and queer as fuck. Limitations should not keep you from making film - they should propel you, inspire you to push harder against restrictions, think outside the box.

In this workshop we will watch and discuss excerpts from three examples of queer guerilla filmmaking which embody the idea of revolution in different ways:

Kenneth Anger used Hollywood's own tools to revolt against the film industry establishment in his short film Fireworks. Bruce LaBruce portrayed an underground revolution in his film The Raspberry Reich. In Tongues Untied, Marlon Riggs presented what he called a revolutionary act - black men loving black men.

We will talk about how film can be used as a tool to instigate change, and then we will get into the realities of making our own films with our own voices. The discussion will rely on the participation of the members of the group, with the intention of sparking dialogue that will inspire us all to craft our own revolutionary stories, and to carry the revolutionary spirit into our art.

Learn SUN 1:00pm in the Dining Hall



Still from
*Imperial
Tranz-Am*,
a short film
by Aron Kantor

Deep Impact w/ THOR

Having impact as an artist many times means connecting your views of the world with your visual as well as your written vocabulary. In Deep Impact, we will go deep in discussing why your views matter and how you can be more communicative through your work. How can artists help inspire more meaningful dialogue in our communities? How can our work as artists help others develop a more sophisticated vocabulary about issues that face us all, so that they might be able to participate in meaningful discussions in their own peer groups? How can we use our work to talk about the things we care about like Politics / Gender / Sex / Race / Injustice / The Environment in ways that invite and incite deeper consideration of our own perceptions of the world around us? Ultimately, how can we as artists help create positive change? **Act Up SUN 1:00pm in the Annex**

PRESENTERS



Ariel Vegosen, *genderillumination.com*
Ariel Vegosen is a professional workshop facilitator, performance artist, Priestess, gender inclusivity expert, liberation advocate, non-binary fairie pioneer, writer, educator, revolutionary super hero & lover of life. Ariel enjoys playing with pronouns, art as resistance, dancing & glitter! Ariel founded *genderblenders.org* & *genderillumination.com*. Ariel creates spaces for diversity & liberation & is available for workshops, performing, teaching, & speaking engagements. *contact: arielmintwood@gmail.com*

Aron Kantor, *dirtyglitter.com*

Aron Kantor is a filmmaker and artist focused on investigating gender identity, queer sexuality, and self awareness. His films have been presented in galleries and screened in over 80 film festivals worldwide, including Slam-dance, where his film *Deviance* was awarded best underground short film in 2015. He was named 2014 Best Bay Area Filmmaker in the Bay Guardian newspaper, and in 2015 was awarded an artist grant from the Endeavor Foundation for the Arts. *contact: aron@dirtyglitter.com*



Beatrice Thomas, *beatricethomasconsulting.com*



Beatrice Thomas is an interdisciplinary artist, coach and consultant. Her background is in grantmaking, arts administration and facilitation. She as a coach she helps artists build capacity through professional development. As a consultant, Thomas works to promote queer arts and inclusion on the national arts platform, through workshops and public speaking. Her drag persona Black Benatar explores the intersectionality of identity race, gender, and sexuality and otherness. *contact: beatrice.thomas@gmail.com*

Christopher White

Christopher White is the Director of the Safe and Supportive Schools Project at the Genders and Sexualities Alliance Network and has over 20 years of experience in leading inclusivity trainings. *contact: cscottwhite@gmail.com*



Dam Dyke

They have been a lady warrior in SF's performance, design and political scenes for over a decade now. Focused on the intersections of the three, Dam has many passions for sharing skills through art and activism. Frequently their performances involve the heavy use of signage and signifiers that center around a deep passion of theirs for propaganda around patriotism.



contact: matt.cotrill@gmail.com

Dot (Tom Schmidt), *PhotoByDot.com*

Award winning SF-Based Photographer was born the 11 of 12 children in a strict Catholic family. In this family nudity was totally forbidden, perhaps leading to Dot's fascination with the nude form in his art. Dot's books include *Sons of God*, *Cured*, *Guilty Pleasures*, and *Escorts*. His works have been shown around San Francisco and beyond. *contact: dot@PhotoByDot.com*

Ethan "Heathen" Cameron

Ethan Cameron studied Graphic Design at the Art Institute of Seattle with a focus on screen printing, letterpress printing, and socially conscious design. He currently lives in Nevada City, CA and is employed as a letterpress printer. *contact: ethancameron@gmail.com*



Hunt Scarritt

I am a nationally award winning playwright, former Professor of Theatre at Loyola University New Orleans and have taught creative and meditative techniques to all ages and populations; in elementary schools, parks and monasteries. I have been given awards from the National Playwrights Conference, Andy Warhol Foundation, Santa Fe Art Institute, Atlantic Center for the Arts, and the Stephen King Writing Award to name a few. I am happy to send a CV/ Resume.
contact: huntscarritt@yahoo.com



Irene McCalpin, *theungratefulfatbitch.com*



Queer, fat burlesquer, chanteuse, model and art activist Irene McCalpin (Magnolia Black) can be found all over the bay area creating and maintaining spaces for radical self-love and empowerment. Co-founder, art director, massage therapist of A Sovereign Embodiment she provides compassionate care to intersectional communities.

Published author, storyteller, and performer highlights the intersections of fat, feminism, race, kink, spirituality and human sexuality with vulnerability and joy. *contact: missrenie@gmail.com*

Jose Joaquin Figueroa, *josejoaquinfigueroa.com*

Caracas-born multi-disciplinary artist Jose Joaquin Figueroa states, "I look at repetitive gestures embedded in folklore, religion and ideology through various means of expression from painting, ceramics, photography and video to interviews, collaborations, texts and ready-mades. I position myself as a shaman who seeks to unveil the masks of history." He received his B.F.A. from the Cooper Union in 2014 and his M.F.A. from U.C Berkeley in 2016.
contact: jffiqui@gmail.com



Kevin "LOL" Seaman, *SeamanArt.com*



Kevin Seaman is a cultural worker, artist, and Director of Bring Your Own Queer. He was one of SF Weekly's 16 Artists To Watch in 2016, was an inaugural member of the APAP Leadership Fellow Program, and participated in the Yale School for the Arts' first queer arts exhibition, Queering Space. *contact: Kevin.L.Seaman@gmail.com*

Mark Santillo

I'm a former programs & events director with a lifelong love of the Arts. Engaging with the queer Burner community has re-ignited this passion, and I'm prepping to launch my second career in visual Art Sales and Artist Representation, putting my mgmt and mktg skills in service to other artists, while expressing myself through my own writing and performance. I hope to open my own gallery/performance space to promote creativity.
contact: spideypdx@gmail.com



Morocco

Morocco likes to settle in and sew things by hand when it feels like he can't quite seize the entire means of production. In doing so he connects with a deeper instinct to use tools to make cool shit. He lives in West Oakland as the First Lady of Miss MayHole 2016, Snowflake Towers, and really wants to help people learn how to sew/knit/dye/mend amongst other things. Get at him!
contact: calvert.ben@gmail.com



Peter Lawrence Kane, sfweekly.com

Peter Lawrence Kane has been SF Weekly's arts editor since 2015. It's a scrappy-ass newspaper, which means he's the food critic and an occasional music/theater critic, and sometimes gets real mouthy about politics. Erotically trans, politically queer, and aesthetically a faggot, she will respond to any pronoun spoken in good faith. A bearded lady, a professional hedonist, and three-time game show contestant, Pete is also a kinkster and Satanist who officiates a lot of non-Satanist weddings.

contact: pkane@sfweekly.com



DOODLES, NOTES, & STUFF...



Snowflake Towers

Snowflake is a two spirit indigenous artist and activist. As a retired professional ballet dancer, entrepreneur, and drag queen she spends much of her time training the next generation of artists.

contact: arizmendi.daniel@gmail.com

THOR

Thor is a professional Fundraiser and Organizational Development Specialist working to help organizations and groups understand and articulate their impact in the world. Through the development of clear and direct communication, clearly defined impact helps with staying focused and being more successful as well as increasing capacity for raising funds to support the work. Thor has worked with organizations like The Crucible, Burning Man and Groundswell. *contact: thor@thoryoung.com*



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Logo for MUSE: Revolution by
Pnk Feather and Adrian Spencer Para

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