

## MANIFESTO: Towards art in an imaginary future

*Queerness is not here yet. Queerness is an identity. Put another way, we are not yet queer. We may never touch queerness, but we can feel it as the warm illumination of a horizon imbued with potentiality. We have never been queer, yet queerness exists for us as an identity that can be distilled from the past and used to imagine a future. The future is queerness's domain.*

— Jose Muñoz, *Cruising Utopia* (2009)

I propose:

1. A queer art that is not object-based.
2. A queer art that resists commodification.
3. A queer art that doesn't look like art.
4. A queer art that is radical and revolutionary.
5. A queer art that lives, fucks, breathes, eats, and dies.
6. A queer art that cries, loves, bleeds, and cums.
7. A queer art that defies categorization.
8. A queer art that is personal.
9. A queer art that is political.
10. A queer art that increases representation and visibility of the diverse range of identities that exist.
11. A queer art that reveals the limited scope of narratives that are shown in media today.
12. A queer art that does not look pretty. It can look pretty but this is irrelevant. It should look pretty if it needs to be pretty, but its value is not in its prettiness. Its value should also be irrelevant.
13. A queer art that reveals its own pain and struggle in its continuous fight simply to exist.
14. A queer art that uses its pain and struggle as a strategy to effect change.
15. A queer art that embraces humor, that doesn't take itself seriously, that reveals the absurdity surrounding it.
16. A queer art that is serious.
17. A queer art that embraces contradiction.
18. A queer art that doesn't assume authority, that not only questions the society in which it exists but also questions itself.
19. A queer art that forces the viewer to question themselves.
20. A queer art that does not assume that it is art.
21. A queer art that is not intellectual or artistic masturbation, that does not concern itself with conversations that only happen in bubbles, that is not self-indulgent, that does not only comment on art itself.
22. A queer art that does not fuck itself and no one else.
23. A queer art that does not ask itself, Is this art?
24. A queer art that dissolves boundaries between the artist and what the artist produces.
25. A queer art that does not produce.
26. A queer art that believes conversation is an essential creative act.
27. A queer art that is not easy but does not necessarily require much effort.
28. A queer art that breaks at its seams and deteriorates, dissolves, that doesn't pass the test of time because its relevance is now.
29. A queer art that denies tradition, that rebels against canons, that separates itself from the history of art.
30. A queer art that is not about making but about doing.
31. A queer art that is not about production but about action.
32. A queer art that disrupts the heteronormative cultural stasis by any means necessary.

Liz Clayton Scofield, 2014

