

Manifesto of Change

A collective call to action

*This is a constellation of dreams, wishes, needs and demands.*¹

The prelude

*This is a manifesto for those who dream of a better world.
Anyone seeking to transform injustice into care in the cultural sector,
disconnection into solidarity, and stagnation into creativity.
If you've felt the urge to act but didn't know where to begin,
let this be your invitation.*

We dream of a world where silenced stories are heard and valued,
vulnerabilities become strengths,
and love, not success, defines our lives.

We refuse to conform with injustice.
We refuse to accept lies.
We will repair, restore, rebuild.

We demand
stop the violence, start the rooting,
dismantling of oppressive systems,
a planet-first approach: care for all beings, slow down to protect.

¹ A Manifesto written by six Agents of change (AoC) working from four Centers of Change as part of the Cultural Transformation Movement Project

in VIERNULVIER: Dounia Mahammed and Mira Bryssinck

in Zo - Centro Culture Contemporanee: Elie Laucher and Emanuele Arturo Miceli

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It is a continuation of the artistic statement “*Under construction: thoughts, questions, DEMANDS, internal conflicts, wounds, contradictions, frustrations, worries, concerns and broken, breaking dreams. On the necessity for cultural transformation (in the belly of the beast aka the fortress of Europe)*” (2024). Retrieved from

https://www.teh.net/documents/201/CTMP_Collective_Artistic_Statement_2024.pdf.

The Manifesto

We loved, we had a home, we saw, we had to endure, we were strangers, we were not here, we were here, we are trapped, we are in pain, we are transparent, we endure it, we try, we build, we explore, we swallow, we digest, we have a longing, we settle, we breathe slower, we have arrived, we root ourselves.

We'll be
a We.

We will continue until
our voices find an echo, they will.

We will rebuild, restore, repair
We will not despair
We will slow down and run
We will step back and jump
We will reformulate, negotiate;
accept friction and navigate.

We will not shut down,
make space for other sounds
Invite and welcome
nurture and transform,
We will grow
know we don't know
learn and unlearn
reflect and return.

We will acknowledge,
keep on adding to the knowledge
We will care better, share better
We will know better, see better
We will be transparent and clear
We will be visible with all our fear
We will whisper until we shine
We will take and give our time

We will revoice
We will make noise

We will continue until
our voices find an echo,
~~until~~ they will

We will

CONTRIBUTE

to the unsilencing of silenced stories
that yearn and struggle
to be remembered and set free urgently

LISTEN

to the unheard and unexpressed requests.

CELEBRATE

difference and see the strength
of what we call vulnerabilities.

(RE)BUILD

our practice on love.
Not success.

SLOW DOWN

to take care of our precious planet and her animals.

SAY NO

to patriarchal, (neo-)colonial, imperialist, racist, classist, ableist, ageist, sexist,
fatphobic, queerphobic systems of oppression.

QUESTION

the still normalized colonial, oppressive gaze and exploitative modes of
production in intersectional ways

DISEMPower AND RECONSTRUCT

the belly of the beast aka the fortress of Europe.

REPUDIATE

war and violence in all its forms, meanings and places.

CARRY

collective responsibility and boycott, protest, address.

CREATE

liberating spaces for people to meet, think, feel, unite and encourage sustainable practices of caring.

EMPOWER

connection, practice deep listening and support, to connect with others

TRANSFORM

change shape and sound and colour.

FREE

our bodies, minds, feelings.

Free we'll be: imperfect and proud.

Imagining, hoping, imagining hope.

PLEDGE TO SPREAD KINDNESS AND STAND FOR LIGHT

FREEZE

WE FREEZE

TO FREE

WE'LL BE WE

KEEP LONGING, BELONGING

KEEP GROWING AND GLOWING

KEEP LIVING AND GIVING

KEEP DREAMING

KEEP SCREAMING:

Let's rebuild, let's repair.

Let's nurture, let's share.

Let's listen, let's care.

Freeze
take time
Make time
take space
make space
breathe
FREEZE
Breathe
There
Dare
resist
Insist
Breathe
see
free
FREEZE
breathe
Be
(a)
We

We invite you to become part of the Cultural Transformation Movement. Share your voice, create liberating spaces, and nurture change in your community. Together, we will transform!