



Image: Rachel Britton

Vancouver's *Queer Arts Festival* opens June 17 with gender-diverse group exhibit *bumfuzzled monachopsis: innerspace out*

For Immediate Release

Vancouver BC, Jun 1, 2023 | **Queer Arts Festival (QAF): Queers in Space** kicks off 11 days of multidisciplinary arts events and exhibitions with the grand unveiling of their signature curated visual art show, this year titled *bumfuzzled monachopsis: innerspace out* and curated by interdisciplinary artist and cultural worker Zandi Dandizette.

The exhibit's title references "a state of bewilderment caused by a persistent feeling of being out of place." *Bumfuzzled monachopsis* features 16 professional artists—most of whom identify along the trans or gender-diverse spectrum—who explore that feeling by taking up space, sharing space, and claiming ownership of their place in space.

"*bumfuzzled monachopsis: innerspace out* reflects the uncertain times in which our collective world does not ascertain belonging to those occupying it. Our parallel universes of experience, never quite overlapping, seeking out an idealized community, that "me-shaped" hole in which inclusion is touted." Zandi Dandizette explains in their artist statement. "We are not a homogenized whole, but many individuals all seeking that future space in which belonging can be achieved."

The exhibition features acclaimed local, US-based and international artists, including Eda Birthing, Helena "lilpurp666" St Tearer, Jaik "PUPPYTEETH" Olson, Judah Kong, Kale Roberts, Kali Fish, Leby Le Moria, Levi Nelson, Makoto Chi, Moozhan Ahmadzadegan, Odera Igbokwe, Parisa Rafat, Pastiche Lumumba, Rachel Britton, Raven John, and Romi Kim, Kendell Yan & Chris Reed.

Mediums explored during this exhibition include 3D sculpture, textile art, painting, photography, film, and live performance.

Bumfuzzled monachopsis: innerspace out runs the duration of **QAF 2023: Queers in Space** from June 17 to June 28. The exhibit will be on display to the public daily at the Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Centre Exhibition Hall from 9am to 9pm and is free to attend.

About the Queer Arts Festival queerartsfestival.com

The Queer Arts Festival is an annual, artist-run, professional, transdisciplinary arts festival. Recognized among the top 3 festivals of its kind worldwide, QAF produces, presents and exhibits challenging, thought-provoking work that pushes boundaries and initiates dialogue. Each year, the festival theme ties together a curated visual art exhibition, performing art series, workshops, artist talks, panels, and media art screenings. QAF has garnered wide acclaim as "concise, brilliant and moving" (*Georgia Straight*), "easily one of the best exhibitions of the year in Vancouver" (*Vancouver Sun*), and "on the forefront of aesthetic and cultural dialogue today" (*Xtra*).

About Zandi Dandizette bluep.ink

Zandi Dandizette is a nonbinary settler-immigrant interdisciplinary arts and cultural worker that likens their medium as space whether 2D, 3D, or 4D. Their work vacillates between focus shifts on identity, dis/connection, and collective problem solving. Zandi's practice attempts to investigate and share the lessons they've absorbed in navigating the complexity of existence by utilizing repeating shape and colour motifs. Zandi has a BMA in Animation (2014) from Emily Carr University and has shown varied new media and installation works over the last decade across Canada and internationally. They balance their artistic practice with supporting arts advocacy and community building. Zandi Dandizette co-founded and leads The James Black Gallery (2014) which is located on the stolen unceded ancestral lands of the x'məθk'əy'əm (Musqueam), *Skwx wi7mesh* (Squamish), and salilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. They are a current board member of CARFAC National, and chartering member of the Arts and Cultural Workers Union (ACWU local 778-B).

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