

apexart

2023-24 INTL Proposal
submitted February 2023

Death Rights **submitted by: Marian Casey**

To have a healthy relationship to death is to be an enemy of capitalism.

'Death Rights' presents artists engaging with death, loss, remembrance, and the afterlife in radical, political, and experimental ways. Artists who reclaim or explore death, memory and loss from political, spiritual, and radical perspectives. 'Death Rights' brings together a breadth of artists and creative researchers to radically reshape our relationship to death.

Exhibiting artists explore end of life rituals, alternatives, and communal processes of grieving and laying to rest, our relationship to the past and buried histories and ancestors, and the politics of who and what gets to be remembered. They demand new ways of grieving and celebrating those lost, and create new ways of relating to death when death and danger loom close to their communities. They reclaim death as a political tool, exploring ways death makes communal land and gives irrefutable evidence of a people's claim to place; they explore archival work and death research as a radical creative and political act. They reorient and queer our relationships to spirituality and its role in our understandings of grief, death and the past/future, and they unravel heteronormative life and death versus 'queer time', place, and community.

Works will include performative and sculptural explorations of vernacular spirituality and public grieving; queer visions of future legacies; archival research, installation, and performance investigating the politics of race, cultural appropriation, and place in death and remembrance; rituals of queer and trans survival and commemoration in the face of death; a tattoo studio participating in the cycle of rejuvenation and re-erasure of a dead artist's destroyed oeuvre; net art games of discomfiting tarot exploring the divine, death and gender; and others.

South Texas, with its multinational history of colonization, idealized revolutions, and shifting political and cultural borders, has a unique relationship to death, grief, and memory. The exhibition will live in an early 20th century church in one of San Antonio's oldest neighborhoods, engaging with these contexts and drawing together a compelling blend of Texan and non-Texan artists.

The exhibition will include talks and workshops from artists, specialists, and archivists, to help participants explore new ways of thinking about life and death. The end result will

291 Church Street
New York, NY 10013
212.431.5270
info@apexart.org; www.apexart.org

be a thoughtful and multi-faceted exploration of our rights, as humans, to interact with death in an abundant, creative, and healing way - rights that too often are taken from us (by capitalist forces, governments, and other systems of power), or that we forget to remember to use.

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