

GUS FISHER
GALLERY

FREE ENTRY

FEB 15 -
MAY 2

FREE



TUE - FRI: 10am - 5pm
SAT: 10am - 4pm

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Queer Algorithms

GUS FISHER GALLERY, 74 SHORTLAND ST, AUCKLAND CENTRAL



Learn about the queer history of computer science as well as the basics of coding in this hands-on workshop led by Jessica Morgan.

Date TBC
Gus Fisher Gallery
Free but bookings required via our website

Coding workshop

trans folk and gender minorities. three different events relating to the wellbeing and empowerment of event series will take the form of Curated by artist Bronte Perry, this series will be visiting the gallery to perform one of his iconic 'jestered drag' personas in response to his work in Queer Algorithms.

Date TBC
Various locations
See our website for full details
Queer liberation event series

After the Prime Minister announced the government would not move forward on the proposed ban, the fight continues to protect the safety and wellbeing of queer people from this practice. Join a panel of activists, artists, and politicians to discuss this controversial practice, its impact of queer communities, and the often-fraught intersection of gender, sexuality, and religion.

Talk
Conversion therapy ban panel
Date TBC
Ellen Melville Centre

Expanding upon and coming into conflict with the seminal work Branded by Shu Lea Cheang, writer and academic Max Whitehurst leads a discussion on trans politics, structures of power, and the politics of recognition.

Max Whitehurst event
Date TBC
Gus Fisher Gallery

Join us for the opening of an exhibition of young queer artists working with craft and theatre at a new artist-run gallery in Samoa House Library on Karangahape Road.

Date TBC
John Walter performance
Gus Fisher Gallery

Have your fortune read by artist John Walter with his very own artist-made and 'queered' tarot cards.

Date TBC
Gus Fisher Gallery
Tarot reading with John Walter



From the Curator

"We look at things as black and white when there's so much grey. Even people that think they're in the black and white – they often have a foot in the grey. We all do. It's impossible not to."

- Martine Gutierrez

Welcome to *Queer Algorithms* – an abundant queer landscape where anything is possible. Algorithms are problem-solving operations. They are a set of rules that help us calculate, decode and define. But what happens when these set of rules are 'queered'?

Queer Algorithms features artists whose artworks, commentary and activism are reconfiguring new algorithms for change against continued systems of exclusion. Resisting labels, binaries and the need to categorise, *Queer Algorithms* is conceived from an intersectional viewpoint where gender fluidity and identities are understood as always multifarious and in flux. Featuring artworks never seen before in Aotearoa alongside six individual panels from the New Zealand AIDS Memorial Quilt, *Queer Algorithms* provides a nuanced look at what it means to exist beyond the binaries.

In Aotearoa and worldwide, there has been a devastating increase in violence against queer communities. Here in Aotearoa, heated debates on the limits of free speech have enabled Trans Exclusionary Feminists (TERFs) to further deny the rights of trans women adding to increased levels of hatred and prejudice aimed at an already marginalised group. This joins a backlash against the proposed conversion therapy ban and the complex legacy of colonisation in the Pacific that continues to dictate queer lives.

The timely nature of this exhibition cannot be overstated with a severe lack of programming of major group exhibitions by queer artists in Aotearoa's public art galleries. So where are all the queer art shows? The answer, is elsewhere. *Queer Algorithms* cannot begin to answer to any previous lack of visibility but instead presents a nuanced take on identities through the lens of contemporary artists and makers, whose creative output contributes to an understanding of what a shared queer space could look and feel like.

The premise for the exhibition stems from Evan Ifekoya's immersive installation *Ritual Without Belief* - a black queer algorithm, a repeating and responsive code that starts from a place of abundance rather than scarcity. Principles of fluidity and interconnectivity have informed the exhibition's curation, visualised through the expansive selection of artwork and their interwoven concepts, which each agitate for a new way of thinking and being through a lens of multiplicity.

Distanced from a place of marginalisation, the exhibition's strands extend through narratives of personal dialogue, scientific research, queer ancestry, pioneering collaborations and poetic activism. Evocative paintings join meticulously hand-made onesies, glossy magazines become fair game for critique and music video formats become defiant choruses of change.

We encourage you to spend time with the artworks in this exhibition. Listen to them, heed their messages and engage with their algorithms. Starting and ending in a place of abundance, *Queer Algorithms* proudly and magnanimously knows no bounds.

- Lisa Beauchamp

Our sincerest thanks goes to the participating artists, institutions and all of their collaborators:

John Walter (UK), New Zealand AIDS Foundation, Evan Ifekoya (UK), Ursula Mayer (Austria / UK), Aliyah Winter (Aotearoa New Zealand), Shannon Novak (Aotearoa New Zealand), Yuki Kihara (Samoa / Aotearoa New Zealand), Shu Lea Cheang (Taiwan / France), Bronte Perry (Aotearoa New Zealand), micha cárdenas (USA), Martine Gutierrez (USA), essa may ranapiri (Ngāti Raukawa, Aotearoa New Zealand)

The Booth – Miranda Bellamy (Aotearoa New Zealand)

Graphic Design – Gabi Lardies

Imagery based on emblems from Co-Factor (Big Breakfast) 2018 by John Walter.