



Sins Invalid

An Unshamed Claim to Beauty in the Face of Invisibility

We define disability broadly

to include people with physical impairments, people who belong to a sensory minority, people with emotional disabilities, people with cognitive challenges, and those with chronic/severe illness.

We understand the experience of disability to occur within any and all walks of life, with deeply felt connections to all communities impacted by the medicalization of their bodies, including trans, gender-variant, and intersex people, and others whose bodies do not conform to our cultures' notions of "normal" or "functional."



Sins Invalid recognizes that we will be liberated as whole beings –



Sins Invalid is a performance project that incubates and celebrates artists with disabilities, centralizing artists of color and queer and gender-variant artists as communities who have been historically marginalized. Our performance work explores the themes of sexuality, embodiment, and the disabled body.

Conceived and led by disabled people of color, we develop and present cutting-edge work where dominant paradigms of "normal" and "sexy" are challenged, offering instead a vision of beauty and sexuality inclusive of all individuals and communities.

– as disabled/as queer/as brown/as black/as genderqueer/as female- or male-bodied – as we are far greater whole than partitioned. We recognize that our allies emerge from many communities and that demographic identity alone does not determine one's commitment to liberation.

Sins Invalid believes in social and economic justice for all people with disabilities – in lockdowns, in shelters, on the streets, visibly disabled, invisibly disabled, sensory minority, environmentally injured, psychiatric survivors – moving beyond individual legal rights to collective human rights.

Our stories, embedded in analysis, offer paths from identity politics to unity amongst all oppressed people, laying a foundation for a collective claim of liberation and beauty.



Our goals are to:

- Provide a supportive and politically engaged space for both emerging and established artists with disabilities to develop and present compelling works to a broad audience.
- Develop and present strong artistic work that explores sexuality and the non-normative body, integrating the full experiences of disabled artists who are also people of color and LGBTI, in order to represent all of our communities and challenge dominant misperceptions about people with disabilities.
- Promote leadership opportunities for people with disabilities within our communities and the broader social justice movement.



We do this by:

- Presenting multidisciplinary performances (including video, poetry, spoken word, music, drama, and dance) by people with disabilities for broad audiences in the San Francisco Bay Area and elsewhere.
- Organizing multidisciplinary performance workshops for community members with and without disabilities (e.g., poetry workshops, dance workshops, vocalization workshops).
- Offering political education workshops for organizations that share our commitment to social justice principles as a means of integrating analysis and action around disability, race, gender, and sexuality.



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