

Ingredients for a Braver Art Scene

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The list that follows was initially inspired by curator Renny Pritikin's text, *Prescription for a Healthy Art Scene*, that often circulates within the Bay Area art community. The list defined "health" as the existence of ample art production, spaces for critique (such as publications, educational institutions, etc.), and an active art market. Joseph del Pesco surfaced the document while studying with Pritikin at California College of the Arts, and printed it in the May 2009 issue of *Proximity*. KADIST and Southern Exposure also made posters of the *Prescription* piece in 2013 and it was often seen hanging in artists' studios, on refrigerators, and on office walls.

I believe it is time to rewrite this text. The original limited its focus to the enduring stability of traditional support systems for art production—such as a commercial market, art schools, and museums—without attempting to imagine alternatives beyond that horizon. This revised list proposes something more

anti-capitalist, feminist, and utopian. A "prescription" only allows one path forward, instead we need a "recipe"—one that can be changed and modified according to the interests and needs of a particular community. (No one should have a final say.) The adjective "braver" relays a need to challenge and take risks in order to create a more ethical and compassionate world.

This text is influenced by the deeply promising creative community in Los Angeles, especially the numerous artist-run and artist-led organizations.

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Time

Create the conditions that allow artists to have the time to think, make, and build community. Respect the time needed to produce art and ideas.

Space

Build affordable, sustainable, and safe places to work, create with others, show, and congregate.

Growth

Nurture the spaces, social relations, and experiences you want to see in the world. Give them your energy and attention.

Generosity

Encourage strategies of abundance over scarcity (competition serves no one); share, lift, and connect with those around you.

Support

Radically re-imagine, test, and realize equitable support structures for art making. Center ideation, education, circulation, exhibition, and criticism around the greater benefit of art, artist, and audience—not the maintenance of an oligarchic, patriarchal, racist class system that is often proffered by the mainstream art world.

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Care

Use whatever means available, whether small or large, to attend to the holistic needs of an artist beyond the work, such as shelter, health care, and mental wellbeing.

Accessibility

Make everything available to everyone. Gates should not exist; begin by dismantling them.

Openness

Operate with an awareness that everything can be different and can change. Experiment. (There are no rules.)