

1-8

1.

*And only intoxication stands between this book – and silence.*

Hakim Bey wrote this at the start of his collection of essays titled 'Immediatism'. A slim paper-back volume, it is a sprawling, paranoid, part-Deleuzian rambling. Very much the kind of thing that would spring to mind if someone were to say, "theory, alternative scene, San Francisco, early 90s".

But I really love that quote. That idea that when intoxication occurs, you're willing to risk speaking! That perhaps at moments of irrationality, you can bypass a certain sort of force, a sort of cosmic tact that hinders open speech. A moment when you ignore the type of decorum that encourages people to 'hold their tongue'.

2.

I have misgivings about a certain belief in cohesion. The way cohesion has been seen as a positive goal, a situation we should rally towards. It really makes me gripe. It's been bugging me. I believe everything has an equal amount of cohesion and incohesion and that coherency and incoherency and their interchangeable nature is at the very heart of what makes things interesting. Cohesion is so tentative, provisional. To write cohesion as if it were some essential quality (whether linked by a purportedly static concept such as style, date, author) seems unnerving. Incorrect!

3.

Kain Picken has been doing paintings taken from pages in Anarchist zines. I think he collected them a few years back, but he has also been trying to go to Barricade Books to get some more. There is a page in one of the zines though that he has been reluctant to paint. I really like it and I know he likes it as well but I think he thinks people will think it's dumb. It says *Save queer kids from straight parents*. I reckon it's cool.

4.

New York artist Ester Partegas had a show at Foxy Productions with the title *Civilization is overrated*. It's a potent phrase, very slogan, and I love the casualisation of Anarchist politics. From the images I've seen the show looked like exploded consumer waste. There was packaging and an oversized black plastic bag. It looked as if it had been on an unhealthy Capitalist binge. The work was sort of attitude as politics and politics as hallucination.

5.

A friend showed me footage he had taken on his video phone. He was sitting at a flat, smoking pot with someone when a few people turned up. They were speeding off their head and came in talking, moving and over-hot. One of them was talking shit, saying he'd rack up another bag of speed. Then he took his top off cause he was sweating and he was still playing with the bag of whizz when someone on the couch



threatened to chuck a tin of tuna at him. So he said "come on, do it". And the guy on the couch did, and my friend got it on tape. The guy who got hit by the tuna got hurt, but the whole situation was engrossing.

6.

In the Cruthers Collection catalogue (Perth Institute of Contemporary Art, 1995), there is an image by Ann Newmarch, an Australian artist known for political screen prints. The work bears the title *We must risk unlearning*. I haven't been able to get those words out of my head. The image is preoccupied with make-up and patriarchy, but the title seems to reverberate elsewhere. I have been thinking of it applied in an expanded field. 'Unlearn' is potentially both catastrophic and liberating. How uncomfortable, possibly life-threatening it would be if we unlearned engineering, unlearned hygiene, unlearned civility. Coincidentally, a friend showed me his high school folder that had a sticker declaring UNLEARN. Its placement in a school folder seemed suitably charged. He mentioned it was a sticker for his uncle's band in Adelaide, but it appealed to me as pure ideology.

7.

Opinion is often concreted into something larger, made to be greater, with a sleight of hand. When attached to another element, it gains significance, becomes consequential. Think of 'critical' opinion, 'curatorial' opinion, 'commercial' opinion, even 'public' opinion is more desirable than 'just' opinion.

8.

Janet Burchill and Jennifer McCamley did a piece that states *All that rises must converge*. The statement seems to hover. I read it as declaring that everything said will have effect and resonance. Everything will become something else, but this something else is determined by what we do, think and say. The ambiguity of how things (even what has) converged is energy and friction.