

## QUEERS IN SPACE VANCOUVER

### *Manifesto*

Queers in Space Vancouver is a collective of artists, designers, planners, and community activists formed to recognize, articulate, and promote the presence of "queer" "space" in our public environments. Queer space is always in flux because of a range of social, economic, cultural and political dynamics. Queer space can be defined as that which is inhabited and frequented by sexual minorities and where alliances are formed. Many of these public queer spaces are barely concretized and are ephemeral and nomadic. But other queer sites are increasingly "stable" and strategic. The resulting communities are better able to foster respect, security, and freedom of expression and, in turn, propagate new alliances. The heart of our work in Queers in Space Vancouver is the celebration and (re)construction of community.

Queer Space is: queered by desire•often unsafe•an arena/theatre/opera•(Oscar) Wilde•comprised of zones of play•transformed by (queer) bodies•dramatic, campy, outrageous•ordinary•left-handed•often gendered before eroticized•frequented by straight males•there is no there, there•sometimes politicized•increasingly valued and marketable•visible and invisible•Stonewall 1969•often safer for women•intriguing•not always in a ghetto•an infra-thin•a sexual construct•zonal•eroticized•lacking imagination•often straight space•often camouflaged•somewhere over the rainbow•inter/trans national•"not in Kansas anymore"•Paris 1968

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**Guidelines for Submissions:** *UnderCurrents* aims to provide a forum for the presentation of interdisciplinary papers which might not otherwise have a venue for publication. This is not a mainstream or single discipline publication. We look for innovative critical discussions which challenge traditional conceptions of society and relationships between human & non-human nature, as well as challenge the traditional boundaries of academic discussion. We recognize that the exploration of problems and questions regarding the relationships between nature, society, and self may draw from a variety of disciplines, and we encourage submissions from any field.

- Papers/Articles should be 3000-4000 words in length, double-space typed. Reviews can be either short critiques (500-1250 words) or full-length review essays. Please submit two copies - do not send originals as they will not be returned. (Note: All applicable submissions must be well researched and properly supported with documentation. Notification should appear as endnotes, and be kept to a minimum. *UnderCurrents* is edited according to the *Modern Language Association Style Manual* (1985). Submissions must conform.)
- Poetry, Photographs (black and white only), and Artwork. Please include the title, medium, and date of the work. Although we cannot be held responsible for original artwork, all works will be handled with the utmost care.
- Include a name, address, and phone number, with 2-3 lines of biographical information.
- *UnderCurrents* has an editorial policy which encourages authors to explicitly avoid the use of discriminatory discourse (eg: sexist, racist, etc.).

**Please Note:** Each issue is organized around a particular theme. Contact *UnderCurrents* for specific issue information.

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Bill Jacobson, *Interim Landscape #180-18*, 1989, 20"x24", Chromogenic Print, Edition of 9  
Courtesy of Julie Saul Gallery, New York



## The Politics of Natural Space

### Space, the final frontier?

A critical, if not determinate part of urban, cultural, scientific, and environmental politics, the problem of space is a matter of power, desire, and even pleasure. Race, sex, class, gender, nation, and the subordinations these often involve, are all critical to the configuration of natural space. Thus, natural space gets defined in a multiplicity of deeply contested ways. This issue of *UnderCurrents* offers a range of explorations from poetic configurations of "body spaces" to local reconstructions of urban "parking spaces" and historical conceptions of "stolen places".

RAILROAD Y LEVEL.

