

A Call for Necessary Craft and Practice

We, the Dark Noise Collective, invite our fellow artists of every creed, color, and genre to join us in a commitment to produce art that contributes to creating a better, more just world. While we value every artist's prerogative to create whatever they must create, we cannot turn away from the unjust political times we find ourselves in, resulting in the murders of Black, Brown, and Indigenous people across the world. We recognize the unique positions and platforms we have as artists and educators, and seek to use these platforms and positions to combat injustice. We call for artists to engage with their duty, as citizens of a world ever in the wake of another unworldly horror, to join us in making the following commitments:

- I. We promise to create art with the mission of abolishing systems, institutions, and ethos that only serve the interest of white supremacy, neo-colonialism, cis-hetero patriarchy, sexism, violence-fueled capitalism and the intersections of all these that create volatile and grotesque realities for marginalized people globally.
- II. We refuse to remain timid in our craft while the United States and its systems continue to murder and profit from the suffering of black, brown, and indigenous peoples. We refuse to remain timid in our craft while trans people are murdered silently and casually. We refuse to be remain timid in our craft while the immigrant continues to be a second class citizen. We refuse to be remain timid in our craft while Islamophobia is masked as patriotism. We refuse to be remain timid in our craft while rape culture remains the status quo. We refuse to be remain timid in our craft while... while... while... while...
- III. We refuse to be short sighted in our view of justice. We recognize that the institutions that cause damage in our nation are the same entities as (or co-conspirators with) those who do the work of oppression and terrorism globally. We strive to create art that reflects the complexity of the oppressions we face and the multitudes we contain.
- IV. We reject the idea of "art for art's sake." We recognize that all art is political. We dedicate our artistic effort and daily practice to that which dismantles a world that seeks to end us. In the same spirit, we dedicate ourselves to the people and movements who work to build worlds where justice, safety, & equity are not just ideas, but realities. We also commit ourselves to listening to these movements and people with marginalized voices, and not speaking for them.
- V. We recognize the importance of "the body," but more so the human who the body holds. We reject attitudes that view the lives of marginalized and terrorized people as profit, as click-bait, as tickets to fame, as anything but people deserving of better.

- VI. While we recognize the near-impossibility of opting out of capitalism, we strive to divest from institutions, museums, foundations, journals, and any other endeavors who have no track record of work that adds towards the liberation of black, brown, women, queer, trans, or otherwise marginalized people or whose history is directly linked to being in service of any of the violent institutions that we seek to disarm. We strive to challenge these institutions to commit to the liberation of marginalized people beyond tokenization. We also strive to build new institutions, based on inclusivity, autonomy, and the liberation of marginalized people.
- VII. We seek to name the slaughter of Black people in America as genocide, the slaughter of Indigenous peoples in America as genocide, the murders of Queer and Trans people globally as hate crimes, the murders and attacks against Asian, Latinx, Middle Eastern and African peoples in the US and abroad as acts of terror. We acknowledge that these acts are illegal, unjust, and systematic. We will use our work and our agency to speak out against these violences.
- VIII. We turn to art as a tool to hold institutions of racist violence accountable to their actions. We also strive to use other tools in our power to hold these institutions accountable, such as divestment and protest. We strive to uphold and support organizations, movements, and causes that are working towards the liberation of marginalized people. This support is multi-varied and includes financial support, support with protests and organizing, leading poetry workshops, and investing our time and work.
- IX. We hold peers and leaders in our artistic communities accountable when they perpetuate violence on an individual, interpersonal scale. We approach this work with love for our communities, our families, and ourselves.

More from Dark Noise:

- [PENS UP: How Writers Can Join the Fight Against Police Violence](#)