

The Erotic (Extended)

«Womanifesta.»

Inspired by Audre Lorde's

essay «The Use of the Erotic»

By Annie Knight

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The erotic functions for me in several ways
Tonight I will feel it
When the sun burns the day
And only red embers glow
Above my spinning head
Incomplete and *in complete* disarray
A smattering of gray
Where my thoughts toss and turn
Like 9am caffeine euphorias
I'm dragged out of bed
With this promise of utopia
From funk to defunct
It will spread and spread
And I'll dance with each one
Til the time has come
When your duress grabs tight
And I'll twist and I'll fight
And find joy in this dance
When my erotic takes over



1. Find and acknowledge beauty in other women
2. Speak up/respond to sexist comments
3. Embellish your own beauty
4. Compare yourself to no one
5. Resist women's loss of power—see women as powerful
6. Support women artists/writers
7. Validate the attainment of knowledge from women
8. Come to the aid of women/give women support
9. Hug your pussy
10. Be prepared for hateful/sexist comments
11. Run for office! Vote for women!
12. Find out your political representatives' stances on feminist issues
13. Read more feminist theory and literature
14. Stop using and perpetuating sexist language
15. Omit gender boxes on forms and applications
16. Celebrate women's health/bodies
17. Work on putting yourself first.
18. Subscribe to feminist magazines and journals
19. Question and defy gender roles
20. Take Women's Studies courses
21. Encourage others to take them
22. Eat!
23. Feed people.
24. Kiss a girl

*So last quarter I took a feminist theory course, and at the end, the whole class came up with a sort of «manual» (womanual?) for fighting the patriarchy. Basically, these are things we vowed to remember and enact in our every day lives.
Compiled by Angela Chaos [madamechaos@9250x.com]*

WOMEN'S SPACES: An endangered specie

In spite of the long tradition of feminism in Rome, women's spaces are very few. One of these spaces is the women centre LUNA E LE ALTRE, situated in a suburb made of big buildings and commercial centres, suburb where in the 80's took place one of the biggest squatting of houses in Rome.

In those years, in those squatted flats, the feminist group LUNA E LE ALTRE was born. The women of this group and the space that they squatted at the beginning of their political activity, became part of the feminist movement of Rome, the Coordination of roman feminists groups.

In the last years LUNA E LE ALTRE has held courses of Italian language for not- Italian women, job support for rom women and indigent women, happenings and movies, workshop on body and movement. Since the 1995 there are activities about violence against women, in collaboration with others groups in Rome, and in others Italian and European cities.

Now, the Department for the Political of the Patrimony of the Municipality, is trying to deny this history and, through a local law on assignment of squatted spaces to social associations, asking us a lot of money: 53.000 Euro for 10 years of squatting and a monthly rent of 388 Euro from the 1st of January 2004. We don't want to be submitted to business rules and services market that reduce the territorial actions to economical enterprises.

Maybe is useful to remember that if there weren't so many squats (like LUNA E LE ALTRE and other space in the city) the failures of the social organisation and the social costs of this failure would be stronger and more evident. The contribute of squats to the growing up of the cultural level, to the fight against marginalization, as well as the refuse of the culture's and social relationships sale, have been so important that, after 10 years, the intervention of city institutions follow that model.

LUNA E LE ALTRE is a space subtracted to abandonment and ruins in the logic to give back to women of that quarter and the city, a space to meet, confront, and create. All that is possible to see inside the centre LUNA E LE ALTRE, walls and floor, electric and hydraulic system, furniture and gym furniture, has been made by women and lesbians, that during these years have used the space, and have built a space for other women.

We are asking the annulment of the debt and the drastic cut of the rent.

The surviving of LUNA E LE ALTRE depends also from your help. Support us.

Support the campaign, sign up this letter sending an e-mail to: lunaelealtre@libero.it

Soon we will organize a sending of faxes and we will communicate you the date.

Town council: 0339.06/6784239

Department for the Political of the Patrimony: 0339.06/6869673

(You can also send an e-mail to: www.comune.roma.it/scrivi/scrivi.asp)

LUNA E LE ALTRE, feminist and lesbian association