

Joining Movements in the MELTiverse

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You are invited to co-author this reflection on MELT's exhibition *Meltonary: Heat, Encounter, or Another Friction* by adding your thoughts in the blank spots and engaging with inquires in the text.

* the MELTiverse is defined by this author as: all things that melt (my heart has melted!) & MELT's intersecting worlds of arts-design research including their accountability to movements for justice and liberation, especially their actions with trans* feminist discourse and the disability justice movement

MELT practices radical fluidity. We absorb, soak and _____ with MELT. Through their expansive material and conceptual inquiries in *Meltonary: Heat, Encounter, or Another Friction* at the KCAI Gallery: Center for Contemporary Practice, MELT _____ s us to interrogate ableist expectations and harmful divisions that affect our individual and collective lives.

IT'S MELT OPEN

In their fluidity, MELT moves us. I mean *moves* us. Let's consider MELT's movement together.

Entering the doors of the KCAI Gallery, turning left, we are met with groups of wedges resembling doorstoppers on the floor.

MELT's takeaway risograph poster for *Rituals Against Barriers* suggests some of the following ritual prompts: for abolition, for slow time, for bad listening, for tending to the "not perceivable," and for doors /

Near *Rituals Against Barriers*, we find *Warming Up for Theory*. How does MELT's invitation to warm up and exercise differ from normative cultural values for these terms?

Visit MELT's remote access exhibition meltonary.com/melties/ex.html

RITUAL FOR DOORS
You can perform this ritual when you are standing or sitting in a door frame. Trace the frame and dimensions of the door with your eyes or hands. Ask, depending on bravery, situation and voice, loudly or in your head: "Is this door open for" + "X"; For X, choose or add: disabled people, wheelchair users, trans* people, Black people, neurodivergent people, poor people, people of color, queer people. If not, make a commitment to open it.

The wedges are a component of their work *A-Rituals Against Barriers*.

On the wooden wedges we see:
WELCOME, STOP, ACCESS - FRICTION, WHO IS NOT HERE, and NO ASSIMILATION.

How and when do you use wedges? (using a wedge to access conversation, discussing a wedge issue, driving a wedge)

If you are a current student, faculty, staff, or board member at this institution (KCAI) or at another educational institution, can you think of all the structural, physical, logistic, financial, and energetic barriers that impact the ability for people to be here?

See the other side for reflections on MELT's collaborative ethos and how they create heat in composting communities

MELT uses and advocates for the use of access riders

Access riders allow us to be frank in stating disability access needs

They support our collective lives and work by valuing our differences and our bodies. See accessdocsforartists.com

Why is MELT interested in the unstable? What do you make of the terms stability and instability when you view MELT's video works?

ENCOUNTER

With MELT, you are compelled and _____ to pry open the cracks, _____ the rifts, create a bed of soil, and listen to seeds. To care for the unknown.

HEAT

Through a _____ of voices included directly in their work, MELT reminds us of the importance of foundations. Not of the concretized, mythologized, rigid, impermeable, or _____ structures we have been told are foundations. MELT is flourishing and queer-playing in the roots, hyphae, and boundless electricity of composting communities. Foundations (not origins) among composting communities are creative, inquisitive, transformative, uncertain, and they _____ failure. We are all composting communities: full of sustenance and _____. We can create a bed (foundation) of care where nothing and no one is devalued or discarded. MELT isn't sowing seeds in technocapitalism's laboratory-grade nutrient medium, though they are using all the tools for dismantling. Composting (now read queer) communities break it down, creating an expanse to explore the _____ of living a full, whole, and embodied life beyond the binary.

Find examples of when composting (communities/action/heat) happens in MELT's work.

How does MELT move you?
What new shapes can you take today?

ANOTHER

FRICTION