

it's still art



lottie rose gallery
09.14.019

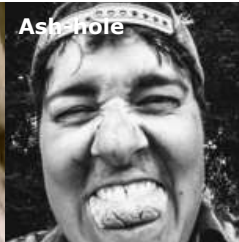
Andy Morrall



Isis Jade Ninja



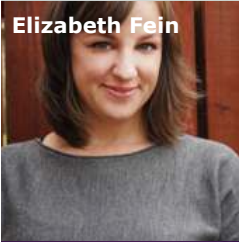
Ash Hole



Duane Quintana



Elizabeth Fein



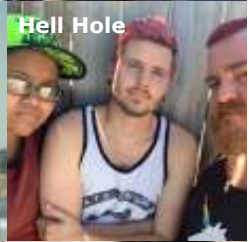
Gregory Burger



Guillermo Pie Belmonte



Hell Hole



Syre



Jonathan Goodrich



Juan Garcia



Justin Iredale



Justin Stoddard



Kevin Krewson



Liam Orsi



Lisa Zebrack



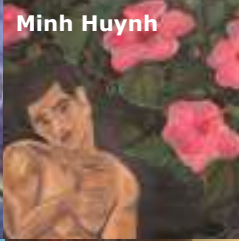
Martin Melia



Mike Booker



Minh Huynh



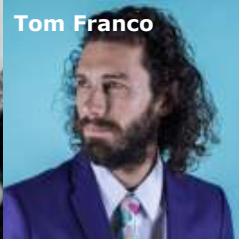
Patrick Killigan



Rory Torrell



Tom Franco



Tony Gargiulo



Tony Gletty



About two years ago, while walking to Buttercup for post-meeting fellowship, I was telling my friend Jim about how I used to be really creative & had many art projects. I confessed that being motivated to create, in sobriety, was so different than when I was spun out. In the rooms, much dialogue happens about how sex & using go hand-in-hand. We share with each other how we struggle to untangle the two. But I hardly hear discussion about the other side of the coin, how to untangle creativity from project tweaking & get into an artistic flow without substances. I used to have bands, used to have a record label, used to make zines... Today I am grateful to be in a sober space where all the basic needs are met. I have time & resources for hobbies again. It feels like the missing piece of the puzzle is placed, life is complete. There was a years-long gap between hitting "bottom" & picking up the pieces where I didn't make any art. I am happy that this chasm is behind me. I feel like art is important to my recovery, my ability to stay clean & sober. I am happy this art show exists and hope this is the first of many & a springboard for discussions about creativity in recovery.

d o u b l e
d o u b l e
d i v i s i o n
d i v i s i o n

Artists and writers have always been tortured souls. Many of the greats were heavy into their cups. Some burned out early while others stumbled their way in to obscurity. Whatever our fate, we are all artists, even the people who don't know it yet. This is especially true in sobriety because in sobriety all things are possible. New things are essential. Our creative potentials are wilder and more focused than ever before. "It's Still Art" celebrates the artist in us all because something kept up going out there. Something drove us to seek sobriety. Something still smolders in us now. This show is about honoring that spark.

Robbie

Andy Morrall

I started painting in earnest in 1985 in a tiny Studio on the North side of Chicago. This was in my 4th year of Architecture school. A desire to create, and the reaction to a rigid curricula were the impetus. Backing up a few years, my summer of cocaine, psychotic break, attempted suicide, and seroconverting put me in a place outside the normal track of young adulthood. A callow youth? A chemical reaction to the residual buildup of cocaine in my system? Regardless, I saw creativity differently, and I was stubborn to apply my version as a reaction, and in addition too, the curricula I needed to work through. My college years were fraught with the 4th step and coming to terms.

There was a lot of excitement in my early work, the first 5 years earned me a gallery and a spot in a group show in Chicago. The quality and volume of the work then tapered off, until I was in my addiction circa 2000, where the work stopped completely. After a 4 year hiatus I picked it up again, consistently producing 1 or 2 panels a year. I don't know that there is a direct correlation between my using and my art. My life's loves and foibles, including my addiction and my recovery, certainly informs my art. My dream is to have my Art compliment my Architecture, and vice versa. Regardless of the outcome, I paint for my own spiritual journey, come what may.

Andy@Morrallarch.com

Aron Ford

Baking is often labelled a science, but what's lost in that descriptor is its status as a folk art. Baking can connect us to cultural histories. It excites me to explore these histories, searching for ways to combine cuisines.

I began baking as a child. After college, I decided that I was uninterested in pursuing any cerebral or technological career and instead enrolled in a culinary program at City College of San Francisco. After one semester, I got a job working at Acme Bread Company and chose to continue my training in baking while working. There, I further developed my understanding of natural fermentation techniques. After I left Acme, I worked at Arizmendi Bakery and

Pizzeria in Emeryville for a number of years. left with a few friends to start a food truck, Vesta Flatbread. We built a little brick oven on our truck, made pita bread, and served stuffed sandwiches. After a couple of years of success, we went separate ways and I opened a restaurant and bakery with a buddy, Nick and Aron's. We served sourdough croissants and scones in the morning and sourdough thin crust pizzas and oven baked entrees in the evening. Nick and I fell out over the year we were open, related to drug and alcohol abuse and the general stresses of owning a business. We closed, and I entered a deep depression. I worked a number of jobs, as pastry chef in fine dining, and management in restaurants. Without allowing myself adequate self-care, I descended deeper into depression addiction.

The trauma of my addiction forced me to take a long break from working, and when I returned to work, I chose to seek employment outside of the food industry. While I miss having my hands in dough every day, I appreciate that when I have spare time, I want to cook and bake for myself and my friends and family.

Ash-hole

Depending on the light or lack of it, drawing kept me close enough to not dying as much as it felt like i was and now it allows me to stitch up pieces that would instead be tore up if it weren't for a chance in recovery.

Christine Thompson

Christine Thompson owned and operated the Thompson Gallery for 20 years. After selling her gallery she is now running a figure drawing workshop at the Bothwell art center with artist Barbara Stanton and curating a variety of exhibitions including the annual life drawing Exhibition "The essential nude". With a passion to exhibit works that are outside the box, she is excited to curate "It's still art", because art should always speak about the expression of your soul's emergence, and recovery in any form is all part of that journey.

Colin Hurley

Hi, I'm Colin Hurley and I'm an illustrator. Recovery is my art and life. When I was a child I had no friends because I had a untreated mental illness. When I was 15 I started painting. When I hit 18 I attempted suicide, survived, and got on life changing mental medications. Life got better and I painted obsessively. But even though I felt better, fat-guilt was a problem and that led to meth. My run lasted for two years and it was scary. I found the only way to recover from this addiction was to stop feeling guilty about wanting to be "fat". Let's be honest, isn't that what "gay bear" culture is all about? Today, I've got to get my weight more under control, but I have ten years of recovery off all those hard drugs, I'm happy, and painting (mostly cat portraits)!

Dominick Hildebrand

I'm a drug addict and alcoholic. My clean date is 10/22/16. Here displayed are two different binders. One on what it was like and the other being what it is like now. My process when I was using and drinking was: 1. hit the pipe/snort a line/do a hotrail, or three, and immediately need to do a sketch (lol); 2. simmer down and take hostage folks at sex parties and make them model for me (rarely was there ever consent, but hey...do as I say). My process now is, generally, a bit more thought out which constitutes to why I haven't produced as much work. But, a process is a process and I enjoy this process more than when I was t'wacked. What drives this process is freedom, intimacy, sex, the unknown (faith&fear&desire), architecture, shadows, and people. For me, creating work is meditative and it truly centers me comparing to a 20min sit. Art and creativity has always been an integral part of my life and I am sure that won't change.

Duane Quintana

BONNi33 ViOL3T aka Duane Quintana has been clean and sober since Mothers Day of 2008. She strives to bring all of herself into everything she does. Holding and expressing the sexual and spiritual aesthetic and experience. To exist in all my forms, all at once.

IG: @Sparkleisassparkledoes

Elizabeth Fein

Elizabeth started painting with watercolor as a child and has always been drawn to it as her medium of choice. She stopped painting for over a decade and has returned to it in sobriety as a way to quiet her thoughts and process her feelings. For this series of painted women she was inspired by nature and used natural elements to create visualizations of how she felt physically in a moment. As a survivor of trauma and addiction, art has been a therapeutic tool to get to know herself and understand feelings that she is unable to express. Her paintings are an excavation process of a women that is just starting to emerge. You can follow her journey on Instagram @with_elizabeth.

Greg Burger

I shoot mostly abandoned places at night. I've seen a lot of crazy things, and have been in a lot of very sticky situations. Sobriety means keeping my wits about me out in the field, where things can sometimes be dangerous for a variety of reasons. Sobriety also means getting to be present and experience some truly incredible things.

Guillermo Pie Belmonte

Hi my name is Guillermo Pie Belmonte. I'm a photographer from Havana, Cuba. I have 18 years of experience in journalism and documentary photography. I arrived to the Bay Area in 2012 and have been a contributing member of Lottie Rose Art House since 2016. This includes submitting photos, organizing events, and collaborating with other photographers in the Bay Area. Currently, I'm working on documenting expanding changes happening in the Bay Area.

Hell Hole

Hellhole is a queer electro-punk band hailing from Oakland & Santa Cruz. Hellhole consists of Robbie on Switch & vocals, Tia on bass, & Jaymie on drums. They have been a band for three weeks, though even three years wouldn't make them any more listener-friendly. Though several members are in recovery, Hellhole neither endorses or opposes intoxication. Hellhole aims to bring tongue-in-cheek colorful "Satanism" to queer rock music by poking fun at both religious people and trite straight-boy black metal bands. Hellhole believes one can hail Satan while also not believing in the devil. The three songs they are playing are about cruising for dudes that look like Santa, nutball tournaments, and worshipping Christian cock. Hellhole's manifesto falls somewhere in between "Make heresy cute again" & "We don't hate fags, God does." Hellhole believes in the use of mythology, but not at the expense of what is real.

Isis Jade Ninja (Anthony Castro)

My drag persona gave me an identity that I could mold and change as I desire. She could be anything she wanted (mainly because I never learned to like myself) of course by getting mixed with drugs not only I change but her as well.. thinking the my best makeup was done while high, or that my best performance were while under the influence.... learning now that all that "FERCENESS" was actually part of me and not the drugs

James Metzger

Jim, james, edward, jimmy, wells, gravity, jump... each name stems from a various creative urge. Tonight, perhaps, he's blithely arriving as Tiago, an ambitiously old soul with Alzheimer's helping to throw this event as one of two people, along with Robbie Brown, making up Versatile Vindication. However, Tiago is also presenting writing, secretly hoping that y'all pick up a red pen and comment on his journals in the gallery space. It's a juxtaposition, comparing the urgency of the ramblings captured while using with a more recent sent of warbles, dictated while he walked 1000km across Spain...

Really? But it's takes too long to read... Perhaps, but Tiago believes that words are far more essential than the IG world cares to admit. Language holds power. Language transmits myth. It can be used to control, or better, to liberate.

Tiago enjoys many creative things, like sewing clothes, researching/writing theatre, offering workshops at various group experiences, writing critical short fiction exploring contemporary gay themes to help him heal from the puritanical dogmas running undercurrent in these times. Many other creative urges, a la methamphetamess, are packed up neatly in storage boxes, patiently waiting for ISA3, ISA4 ISA5... Being able to throw this events is a real blessing for Tiago. Something he only dreamed about while using. Not only does ISA offer the chance to bring his personal unfinished projects into new form, but it offers the shared experience of helping hold space for the creative healing of others in recovery, as well.

edwardbutcher.com

@0ftaway

Jonathan Goodrich

I used to get spun and use whatever was around me to make art. I'd make jockstraps out of old furs, sticks, and chains, collages of porn and paint on old furniture. Whatever. Have glue gun, will travel. Anyway, I'm much the same, now that I'm nine years sober- I'm happy to make anything out of everything. I tend to settle on a theme relatively quickly, usually by coming across an image or phrase that just sort of triggers a particular line of thought. And sometimes the outcome is utterly different than I intended. I'm happy to veer off course.

Juan Garcia

Doodle is the first in a series of activity and coloring books created by Bay Area event planner and illustrator, Juan Garcia. Juan grew up Oakland and his art was influenced by graffiti and dance culture from a very young age. Juan's love of making art was re-energized after getting sober in January of 2018. Recovery topics and step work became huge inspirations and themes in his new artwork.

Doodle, is an oversized book and interactive art piece constructed to tickle the minds of gay men. Venture through the artist's twisted mind by coloring, drawing and solving puzzles constructed from his silly perspective on relationships, gay life, sex, and finding sobriety. A limited number of pages, including the favorite "Ideal Boyfriend" exercise from the book will be enlarged and available as a (bedroom) door poster. Also available will be a limited number of new piece, "Stacks" of Sexual Currency.

The Ideal Boyfriend piece was inspired by the sexual inventory exercise in Juan's recovery program. This work helped him to accept that getting sober meant more than not picking up a drink or drugs. It also meant that he also needed to stop inviting the wrong men into his world and to learn new sex ethics in the process.

IG: @hardlinedrawn

Justin Iredale

Justin Iredale is a maker and artist of Australian/New Yorker descent born in Oakland. He daylights as a digital fabricator working on various projects using CNC equipment (Computer Numeric Control) such as 3D printers, laser cutters, CNC routers, dye sublimation printers, vinyl cutters, and more. Justin's artwork incorporates the various materials, objects, and makes use of the machines that he comes across on a daily basis. His piece in this show, "Record of American Beauty," features the face of Marilyn Monroe painted upon a piece of wood laser-cut to the profile of her head placed on a vinyl record with her icon mole laser cut and aligned with the hole the record. Justin is completely in control of his drinking and smoking and he considers that his recovery.

Justin Stoddard

I am a San Francisco educator that has been teaching elementary for 14 years. I am passionate about creating opportunities for my students to tap into their creative self expression and identities as artists. Art has been an incredibly important part of my life and has provided me the opportunity to

heal and transform trauma into healing, as well as exploring deeper aspects of myself. I have been involved in local queer theater and performance art for years and creating using various mediums including sculpture, screen printing, and ritual and ceremony as a key form of creative self expression.

srdragonfly4@gmail.com

Kevin Krewson

I did a lot of art when I was using. Elaborate constructions of color and form. Never putting it out into the world because of my need to control all the results. What I have here is the result of letting go. The series '36 Views of Sutro Tower', like Hokusai's Fuji, hopes to explore a single subject in so many facets that the images transcend the object.

Kevin.krewson@gmail.com

Liam Orsi

I am Pomi, A Product Of My Insanity. My music is an expression of what I've been through and continue to go through. Everything that I write and create is about my experience in this life, some good, some bad, but all just my experience. "

Lisa Zebrack

Lisa Zebrack is a paper artist living in Oakland, California. When she was 13, she told her Dad that she hadn't made art in a while. He showed her a folded paper unicorn and asked if she wanted to make one. She said yes and started taking paper crafting classes with Robin Goodfellow for the next several years.

Lisa's first experience with sobriety came in her 20s while living in Monterey. Paper cutting during meetings was a great way to help her concentrate on receiving the message. After six and a half years of sobriety Lisa slipped, during that time she continued creating her art, although she was struggling with sobriety off and on for several years. Lisa has now been sober for six months and is excited moving into the future and staying clean, sober and continuing the journey she is on with her creativity and artwork.

The inspiration for Lisa's designs often come during creative exploration. Sometimes she just follows what her hands are doing, and sometimes people request something unique and she'll practice on improving those designs, like suns, trees and flowers.

Lisa uses a pair of French fold-up scissors for her intricate designs, which she often wears in a leather pouch as a necklace. She uses Yes paste to glue the layers of her work together, which sometimes involves up to four or five sheets of paper. Lisa is available for commission work.

Martin Melia

In 1974 some friends and I went to the Vorpal Gallery in San Francisco. Of the several artists that were showing at the galley, one artist caught my attention his name was Jesse Allen. His use of watercolor and gouache to produce bright and colorful fantasy like landscapes and animals fascinated me. Along with his paintings there was a short film in which he described his creative process. That film changed my own artwork forever. Describing how he produced his art he stated that did not sketch out his ideas before painting, but instead let his ideas flow freely without planning. His art was created in the moment and took shape on a blank canvas without a preliminary sketch or idea. It was spontaneous art.

I was inspired to try out his ideas in my own work. My first attempt is the painting presented here with the red flaming central figure, simple double suns and flying creature. I sat down and simply began to paint with no thought or idea of what I wanted to create. In later paintings I introduced more structure and organization laying down rough outlines and then expanding on them in free form. The other work in this show is my latest

painting and shows how my art has evolved from a totally free form to a combination of free form and a more structured approach.

The second work is unique because it was started before I became an addict and only finished after I entered recovery. While I was in active addiction I did not paint. Addiction robbed me of many things and the desire to be creative was one of those things. Not only did I lose my interest in creating art, but I was also physically unable to paint. My style of painting requires a steading hand and patience, I had neither of these abilities when I was using. It took some time after I was in recovery before I felt the urge to pick up a brush and one of my fears was that I would not have the steady hand necessary to produce the fine lines that my art demands. Fortunately, recovery has given me both stable steady hands to paint with and a deep desire and pleasure in creating art once again.

Mike Booker

I am currently 34 years old and have lived in Oakland, California for nearly thirty years I have been writing (seriously) since I was 14 years old and have always aspired to be a novelist, photographer, and screenwriter. In 2011, I self-published my first novel, *Shadow*, which is about a trio of psychic gay men in the Bay Area. I also wrote and published other novels and stories, while working as a personal banker and a personal assistant for an insurance company, before my addiction to meth sent my life into a tailspin.

During my active addiction, I was nearly incapable of creating art. I was homeless, on the streets of Alameda and Oakland, for nearly a year and a half. I feared that I was creating so much damage to my brain that I would not be able to write again. During my "off" days from using. My only solace was going to the Alameda and Oakland public libraries, where I "forced" myself to continue writing. I began work on the fifth volume in my "Shadow" series, entitled "Lullaby." That particular novel represented who I was, as both an artist and a person, at the horrible depths of my addiction and my depression, as well as who I was becoming, at the start of my recovery from alcoholism and chemical dependency. In a lot of ways, I feel like writing that particular novel saved my life. It gave me hope, at the darkest period of my life.

Now, After four years of being in recovery, I feel more confident and more skilled as an artist and a writer than ever. For me, writing has been a refuge and a therapeutic way to share my story to the world. Being in recovery has allowed me to not only reclaim my life, but to enhance my artistic practices. I've written more in the last four years than I have, even in my life. I definitely credit that to recovery. In November of 2018, I released the third volume, in my gay, coming of age series, "Freshman" which is loosely based on my freshman year of college at San Diego State University. I am currently working on the "sister" series to "Shadow, Called "The Eternal Circle," about a quarter of disparate witches from Oakland who are forced to band together after a primordial evil invades their hometown which will be available in summer of 2019.

It is certainly because of abstaining from alcohol and drugs, as well as embracing spiritual principles in my life that I have been able to pursue my art with authenticity and excitement. I am grateful to be in recovery and that I have been able to include art into my recovery process.

Check out "Shadow" the first novel in the Shadow series. "Lullaby" is the fifth and most current volume in the series. Also check out "Freshman: Volumes 1-2", available in e-book and paperback editions on amazon, Barnes and Noble.com, iTunes, Kobo, and Smashwords.

Minh Huynh

I started painting after I got sober. First, because it gave me a space to surprise myself and have fun. Then, because it altered my perspective, the way I looked at time, people, spaces, my emotions, and myself. I am constantly reminded by how small I am and how big life is. Painting has become a practice of my humility in recovery.

I paint what I don't have the words and courage to say aloud: my feelings, my past, my dreams for the future, the big and small things in my ordinary life. I paint to see them all better.

Patrick Killigan

Patrick quit drugs and obsessively collects records to spin in his free time when he isn't surfing.

Robbie Brown

Robbie makes jock straps, music, and volunteers for too many things. Co-founder of the Art/Zine/Record/Clothing label Versatile Vindication along with Jim Metzger, Robbie has lately been working to establish a sober section at Oakland Pride, make music in his new band Hellhole, and continues to make zines about queers in recovery and queer geek culture.

@ratchet_robbie

Rory Torrell

Rory Terrell (b. 1979 Spokane, WA) grew up on a ranch where his family raised hogs, cattle, and chickens with his horse. After he graduated High School from Rosalia, WA. Rory spent the next ten years working on the railroad, starting out as a track laborer; he climbed the ladder to Track Inspector. The railroad brought Rory to Boise, Id and he lived there for 14 years. Rory has studied fine art at Queensland College of Art in Brisbane Australia and Boise State University, where he graduated in 2012 with a BFA in painting and drawing. He has been awarded two Art Department scholarships in 2010 and 2012 whilst attending BSU. Rory moved to Oakland CA in the fall of 2013. He joined the Firehouse Art Collective and quickly became a core member working closely with Tom Franco. Rory became the manager of the Lottie Rose House, an art house with 16 other artists, in 2014. He is also the Gallery Director of the Lottie Rose Gallery, where he runs monthly art shows. Rory volunteered to help build The Flight Deck in Oakland, after which he became an Artistic Associate with Ragged Wing Ensemble. Rory has also spent two

years working with Rinna Flohr at Expressions Gallery in Berkeley as a Gallery Assistant and Art Handler. Rory worked with Rob Rao to start up BREAD-a youth chess and art club, where he was the Art Director and lead art teacher. He is currently working with Alex Nolan; they are starting up a non-profit called Local Artists Berkeley, where he is the Executive Director. Rory has been displaying his artwork at exhibitions in Idaho, Washington, Ohio and California since 2011.

Rory is an Environmental Activism artist, an idea fostered while he lived in Brisbane, Australia (2008-2009). He is working with used motor oil as a media for a new form of conceptual painting. This concept was cultivated after he witnessed an oil spill off the coast of Queensland in 2009. The 71,000 gallons of oil from the capsized ship washed ashore and contaminated the beaches near to where he was living. Shortly after he returned to the United States, the Deep Water Horizon incident occurred and further fueled the desire to express his disquiet to the miss handling of the drilling process for hydrocarbon. Rory is archiving our current paradigm of oil consumption with his beautiful displays of contained pollution.

Syire

Business model who studied art their whole life was born in San Diego & raised in Oakland. Pronouns they/them and identity's as Two-Spirit. "Caribbean tingz, rich culture forces a lot of passion and discipline into my love for life. My grandmothers were Chiefs, Nuns, & Brujas. Soy Brujo, I believe anyone can open any door they want with the right chemistry no matter their identity"

Tom Franco

My art work is made up of 80% found materials. That includes the surfaces that I paint on, the paint itself, the large items and the small ones. The things I actually spend money on are more for structural integrity like glue, screws, tape, brushes... all the tools that go into sticking the found objects

together. I've now also started to spend money on other people's art, usually anonymous sculptures, that I incorporate into my own work.

I consider myself a folk artist, representing images of the Bay Area California where I live, our shared global culture, as well as scenes of my inner life in the subtler realms of reality.

I consider myself an outsider artist, but I like to say insider artist... meaning that I believe in inventing techniques of manifesting ideas as art. Mostly this type of art is self taught and often very unique to the individual.

And the third element in my style of work is that of collaboration. I love to work with other artists on the same piece. By doing this my process always stays on the cutting edge of fun, unpredictable, explorative, and fast. It keeps me open to the stories, images and energies that I could never create on my own.

My narrative work comes into play after developing my characters through sculptures and paintings and then bringing them further to life through story, drawings and song.

Tom is the director for the Firehouse Art Collective in Berkeley CA, a space for artists of all disciplines to co-create community and culture, and collectors to buy cutting edge art of lasting value.

There are 6 California Bay Area locations which include various combinations of art studios, group living spaces, event spaces, and micro store fronts for retail.

Tony G

I became attracted to my medium by visiting various ruins, churches, jewelry houses and palaces in Europe. I am especially inspired by the Italian "Pietre Dure" works of art of the Medici's and geometric patterns of Pompeii. I love working with my hands and professional tools to create pieces in marble and granite. I also liked to draw and design furniture, home installations, and jewelry. I did not create art like this before I using Crystal Meth. While I was tweaking, I liked work that I was producing. However, I found it difficult to

finish pieces while I was tweaking. Or, often I would whittle away at projects until they fell apart.

My inspiration while tweaking was grandiose and over-the-top. I loved using precious gem materials, exotic marbles, and woods for my projects. While designing jewelry I made many pieces in gold that probably should have been made as in prototypes of silver first. My inspiration now has tamed quite a bit. My projects have been focused mainly on jewelry design. Working with marble is very loud, dirty and intensive, so I have not been able to do that in a long while. I aspire to return to that medium, as I get a lot of satisfaction from creating in marble and granite

In sobriety, I have the opportunity to pick up when I left off. Since getting sober over 12 years ago, I have accomplished many of the "pipe-dreams" I had while using. For example, I finished my graduate gemologist degree and recreated jewelry pieces that were stolen from me in my addiction.

agargiulo70@gmail.com c: 415-574-1272

Tony Gletty

Tony was a wild child growing up. He began running the streets at an early age. He has been all around the world dancing and clubbing to Japan and back again. Music he says, saved his life. Music, the backdrop of our culture and shifting generational movements. Music that defines, influences and reflects the mass subconscious has in this way changed his life. Music was without a doubt the most formative influence throughout. Always his dream to contribute to this cultural experience and make music himself. It wasn't until he sought recovery that he had this chance. Having never before had any chance at a decent meaningful life, never making anything of himself. In recovery he has built this life. A life beyond his wildest dreams, without drugs. The fulfilling life rich with confidence, self-assuredness and purpose. A life so amazing it inspires him to pursue inspiration and his dreams. Tony is now trying to be a part of that backdrop of our lives by making music of his own.

Versatile Vindication offers gratitude to our hosts:



Firehouse Art Collective is a community based project directed by Tom Franco, providing spaces for artists to co-create a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration.

our sponsors:

San Francisco



Oakland



& our peoples:

Christine Thompson: curation
Aron Ford: food & refreshments
Justin Iredale: printing & graphics

Christine Thompson - Aron Ford



Colin Hurley: operations
James Metzger: producer, program

Robbie Brown: producer, promoter
Dominick Hildebrand: communication

Colin Hurley

James Metzger

Robbie Brown

Dominick Hildebrand



Versatile Vindication is a burgeoning East Bay queer arts collective alchemized by Robbie Brown & James Metzger. Working to nurture the creative spark of new and established artists, VV publishes 'zines, produces events, records albums, makes clothes... all the things. Everyone has a spark. Come burn things with us!

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The **SHOTS** issue

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art/stories/unexpectedness to versatilevindication@gmail.com

Finding a Bottom, Issue Number 3

your friendly neighborhood qltbg zine focusing on addiction and recovery