

# A SHAPE SHIFTING ODDITY

## DRAG YOURSELVES OUT! VOL. 4 & BOOK RELEASE

Do we want to enter into a conversation? Create for the fourth time a confusion of words, questions and feelings that becomes a common murmur, a resonance, completely different forms? Why not, right? Because there is abundance in our forms and shapes: questions, criticism, reproaches, demands, insecurities, violence, pain, dismay, rethinking, connection and, above all, change. Changes to ourselves, to others, changes to structures. And yet they retain a similar form. They contain a battle cry.

**"Slay oppression and stay, or sashay away!"**

This document invites you to the main building of the University of Vienna **Universitätsring 1, Großer Festsaal**, on the **05.02.2024** at **18:30**. (Registration by mail to: [verDragtEuch.philo@univie.ac.at](mailto:verDragtEuch.philo@univie.ac.at)) It – the document –, we, Paul\*A Ntinomia – for this evening \*again\* Mistress of Ceremony – or NARZISSY – as part of a transformative Oddity/Curiosity –, invite you to create a space together. Oh no. Not just a space. It is an invitation to change ourselves in all joy and exuberance, to transform ourselves. Once again, this evening is intended to invade the familiarity of the university, to confront it with a different ordinariness and to shamelessly ignore what does and does not belong in such a place. It shall be powerful and glamorous, the sheer myriad of experiences and forms should bubble and flood out of the night into the day.

Lady Nutjob, Thirteen, Storm, Eric Big Clit, La Terre', Dopa Mania as well as Miki Moskito and NARZISSY as well as art pieces from Jamie Niederer/Sinister will be shape-shifting the heaven out of the place. They show us every perversity imaginable; be it the desire for respectful interaction, living outside suffocating gender norms, the fight against racism or the utterly criminal idea that we could live together, in bright colors, joy, complicity and without beating ourselves to death. We are the ones they call perverted and criminal because we want to live. And if their norm is death, let them keep it. Our form is abundance.

Based on and inspired by the strength, beauty and grace of what is presented, this evening is about how we can shape *grace*, how we can shape our lives, knowledge and especially our forms. The aim is to wrest them from the dead claws of institutions; with all our might and grace against the appropriation and forced representations of ourselves.

The boundary between audience and actors should blur, dissolve and constantly reshape itself. Together, we will draw strength from the transformations and thus show together what it means for us to live together. That is what this evening is all about: To become entangled in our own and other forms. It is about a ceremony of shape-shifting, about a ball on which the figures stand in relation to each other, turning and whirling around each other, playing together to shape the space, changing it through their appearance; just like themselves.

For me, this idea finds a role model, or perhaps better some prehistory - and perhaps you could already guess it (at least if you've already read invitation 1-3, you should know it) - in drag, in the ballroom scene created by Black and Latinx people, the trans liberation movement, the drag children's book readings and especially in the words of Leslie Feinberg. It's about allowing forms to emerge from the hurt; forms that don't leave others alone like those who have carried them forward to this day. Caught up in confusion.

This is an invitation, a call to help shape this evening, this struggle: "Look for us - transgender warriors - in the leadership of the struggle to usher in the dawn of liberation."<sup>1</sup>

Yours - for one more evening -  
Mistress of Ceremony Paul\*A Ntinomia

For more information about the book  
"VerDragt Euch! Roses, lavender and fire":

[verdragt.wordpress.com](http://verdragt.wordpress.com)

A stylized logo for the book 'VerDragt Euch'. It features a black silhouette of a swan or a similar bird-like figure with its neck curved. The words 'VER DRAGT EUCH' are written in a bold, pink, textured font to the right of the silhouette.

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<sup>1</sup> Leslie Feinberg: *Transgender Warriors. Making History From Joan of Arc to Marsha P. Johnson and Beyond*, Boston: Beacon Press 2021, p. 128.