

# THE THISTLER

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ISSUE EIGHTEEN \* NOVEMBER 2011 \* FREE \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

Please visit our website for up-to-date information on our schedule

www.purplethistle.ca

# \*MONDAYS\*

open for drop-in
4 - 10pm

Collective Meeting: 7:00-8:30pm

# \*TUESDAYS\*

open for drop-in

4 - 10pm

Darkroom support 4:00-7:00pm

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# \*WEDNESDAYS\*

open for drop-in
4 - 10pm

Alternative Processes - 6:00-8:00pm\*

# \*THURSDAYS\*

open for drop-in

4 - 10pm

Life Drawing - 7:30-9:30pm\* \*\*
\*every last thursday of the month
\*\*closed to drop-in

# \*FRIDAYS\*

open for drop-in

3 - 6pm

RAIN - zine making, etc- 3:00pm

# \*SUNDAY\*

closed to drop in
Purple Thistle Institute

Discussion Group - 3:00-5:00pm \* \*\*
\*About every second Sunday.
\*\*Check column on the opposite side of the page
for details.

# NEW WEEKLY CLASS: Web Design drop-in sessions TUESDAYS 6-9 PM

This FREE drop-in will be a combination of Q&A and ongoing lessons on web design every Tuesday from 6 to 9 pm.

Using HTML and CSS you can learn to construct web pages, starting from the basics (plain text, links etc), and progressing up to a multi-page website with a modern layout and design. You can also learn how to analyze and modify existing designs, as well as some broader web design tips and strategies.

# Technical prerequisites-

You are not totally new to computers You have some experience browsing the web You can do basic file management on a PC or Mac (save and move files, create folders, etc)

Bring your laptop if you want.

This class will mainly be targeted at beginners but feel free to come by even if you are at an advanced level- maybe you will still learn a bit, or perhaps you can help teach others

email webdesign@purplethistle.ca for more info (or just drop by to the class)

also, TELL YOUR FRIENDS.

community.

# The Thistle is a youth-run community centre

for arts and activism

We are a free place (both free-of-charge, and we are Interested in freedom) where youth can engage with each other and their

The Centre is a physical space to root ourselves, a place to work together, and a site to learn new ways for

radical organizing for social change.
We have plenty of resources, so do come on down!
All Welcome!

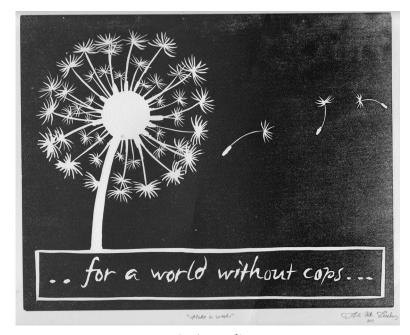


image: "make a wish"

image by: Ali Cat Leeds

"If you think being a heavyweight boxer or an NFL wide-receiver is an invitation to brain damage, try being an anti-capitalist." mike davis

# taking care of each other

by carla bergman

community is one of those words that is so easily thrown around and no doubt it can mean so many things these days that one could argue that it has almost lost any relevant meaning. And when I hear stuff like "my online community" I lose my shit! How is that community? I mean I get it, sort of, but I don't know most of the people on my Twitter or facebook, and I certainly don't have them over to my house...

but, according to Wikipedia, "[t]here were ninety-four discrete definitions of the term by the mid-1950s." So, it's really nothing new that there are many ways to use the word community and clearly this is an indication of how important the concept of community is to people everywhere. And so, I think that like the word democracy, community is a great word and we should do all we can to keep it radical and connected to really taking care of each other, especially in the face of state and police oppression.

Radical communities are ones where you live close to each other, share your resources outside of the almighty dollar, and truly take care of one another and have a true solidarity - that is what I mean when I say "my community".



art by Sarah Lum

# CONTRIBUTORS

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taking care of each other: Carla Design/Layout: Joi, Carla, Maya RAIN: Mike Jo Radical Gardeners: Adam Art: Ali Cat Leeds, Sarah

to send submissions to the Thistler email: mayamotoi@gmail.com

# THIS AND THAT

# Eastside Culture Crawl

The Thistle will be participating in the Crawl

Friday November 18th from 5:00 - 10:00pm Saturday the 19th from 11:00 - 6:00 Sunday the 20th from 11:00 - 6:00

This is an opportunity for us to sell our art! - screen prints, paintings etc. Many Thistlers and friends will have their stuff out and up for sale.

## GOOD TOUCH!

GOOD TOUCH! is a new series of sexuality-focused events organized through the Purple Thistle Centre.
GOOD TOUCH! aims to provide a focused space through which to discuss topics and share resources related to sex, health, gender, pleasure, and politics.
GOOD TOUCH! approaches sexuality from a collective, community-based perspective, and believes that the reclamation of our bodies and our good feelings is an essential component of radical social change.

November 26th at 6:30pm will be our second workshop and discussion:

Negotiating Consent
Facilitated by YouthCO

YouthCO is a youth-run social profit agency with a mandate of a mandate of anti-oppression, harm reduction, and sex positivity which provides education, support and advocacy for youth between the ages of 15 and 29 on issues associated with HIV & AIDS.

All ages, all genders welcome.

# Spinning, Knitting, Smocking, Tatting and other textiles workshops

You don't have to be experienced or know about stuff to come - come if you're interested!

It would be great if you could let me know if you are coming or thinking of coming so we know how much stuff to get/gather for the workshops.

To RSVP or if you have any questions or anything else that you want to say about these workshops, email me at:

mayamotoi@gmail.com Thanks.

Maya

November 24th (Thursday) at 6:00pm Basic spinning with Nicola

Spinning wool with spindals.

November 25th (Friday) at 6:00pm Stich'in bitch - knitting support by Sylvia

Learn to knit or bring a knitting project that you are working on - maybe it's something you'd like help with or maybe you just want to knit socially?

December 1st (Thursday) at 6:00pm Smocking with Merina

It's a form of embroidery that pulls the fabric into bunches as you stitch - think peasant shirts.

December 5th (Monday) at 4:00pm Something (still to be decided) with Caitlin

December 15th (Thursday) at 6:00pm Tatting with Merina Old fashioned lace making.

# Radical Art In Nature: Guerrilla Art Group and ZINE

Excitement is in the air with the RAIN collective! We are almost ready to start issue 5 of RAIN Zine, with another SLUG in the works for the spring. We made a bunch of personal projects for the Canzine symposium and are rushing zines (diy style) to show/sell/give-a-way at the EastSide Culture Crawl on November 18th, 19th and 20th.

#### coming up:

We will be running some writing sessions soon... check the website and facebook for details. and we are also organizing radical media and publishing workshops throughout the winter. Look outl...

we meet weekly on Fridays at 3 pm!



#### The Thistle Film Field Trip!

#### Hey Friends!

wanna support a crew of thistlers to go visit Unitierra in Oaxaca!?

#### here's some details:

In the winter of 2012, a small group of us from the thistle are heading down to Oaxaca to spend time with another radical organization called, Unitierra\*.

#### We are going for a few reasons

to engage in skill sharing and to build a solidarity that will hopefully include many forms of exchanges.
 to learn further about radical organizing, especially horizontalism
 to film

all of us volunteer at the thistle and most of us are low-income youth, so any help would be super appreciated.

Much of the money raised will go to the folks at Unitierra.

#### here's how you can donate:

via paypal! (credit cards, pigeons...use donation button on the webpage)or by cheque, contact us!

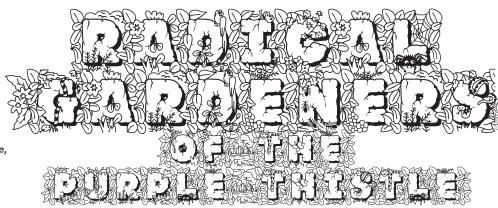
## thank you for your generous support!

\*UNIVERSIDAD DE LA TIERRA IN OAXACA IS AN ORGANIZATION (Unitierra)

is dedicated to learning, study, reflection and action. Our efforts are focused on actions of social transformation aimed at rooting, strengthening and expanding the convivial way of life and radical democracy.

"To change the world is very difficult, perhaps impossible; what is feasible is to create a new world". Subcomandante Marcos





There's music emanating from the industrial lowlands. It pounds against the solid concrete walls and reverberates outwards, a warm tone that sends shivers through the steel and asphalt spinal chord of occupation city. Follow it. As you walk along, you'll witness the addictions of the urban body, both subtle and ostensible. But look past the most obvious – the litterings of needles, condoms, and junk food wrappers – and contemplate the larger, more encompassing signs of dependency; the preponderance of trucks and cars and all manner of petroleum powered machines, the truckloads of food hauled in and out of the produce depots and the docks at the end of the line, the advertisements for cheap travel and alcohol, and the mountains of garbage and waste food that pile endlessly.

But the sound is getting louder. In fact, it must be just around the corner. And it sounds  $\dots$  kinda funky.

At first it may look like a mess. There's movement, color, noise, and laughter. A hundred people are hanging out in a vacant cul de sac bordering the train tracks. Some of them are making music, either with banjos, guitars, turntables, or homemade elderberry branch horns. Some of them are stuffing their faces with free food and delectables, lovingly cooked (or not cooked) in various houses around the community that morning. Some of them are working in a large field of buckwheat, rye, and fava beans that looks as though it has been superimposed on a section of marginal roadside land. Still others are just sitting in circles and talking, or bobbing for apples, or taking pictures, or shooting film, or walking the labyrinth that's been painted in the center of the cul de sac in radiating concentric circles. And, of course, there are a ton of people building and painting a bunch of planter boxes to be scattered about the city. A pretty ridiculous spectacle, really.

So what's going on here? There's a celebration. There's a community gathering space where before there was quite literally wasted space. People are growing their own food, sharing food that they've managed to grow/forage/buy/salvage, spreading ideas and information through their own media, contributing their skills, whether they are organizational, musical, artistic, ecological, or otherwise, and jumpstarting the long process of healing the land that we walk on. No one is in charge – in fact, though hours and weeks have gone into organizing for this celebration, let alone creating the space, everything unfolds organically and everyone is involved in co-creating the experience. This is the Purple Thistle in action, but these aren't just Thistlers, and there is more going on here than meets the eye. This is a community in action, and the drive to act, express, and be in command of ones own destiny, to have unmediated relations between oneself and the Earth, oneself and one's community, is contagious.

This is the beginning of something. Over time, and through many hands and hearts, this newly reclaimed space will grow and change to meet the needs and desires of the community that steward over it, and the ideas that birthed it will now radiate outwards from it. All over Turtle Island there are similar reclamations of space and of sovereignty, in small creations like this food forest and in grand gestures, and it's infectious. So now, as we put the garden to sleep for the winter, we look forward to all the joys of the cold season and await the spring, when we will shake off our winter coats and hit the streets again for another season of gleeful and determined plantivism!

Sweet dreams, all.



