

Gallery



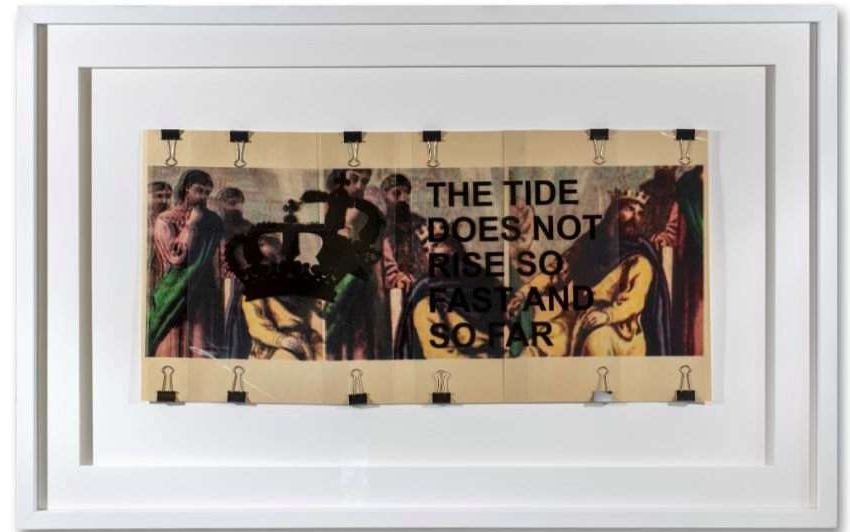
Dilip Sheth, *Blues Caravan*

Queering Sound

“QUEERING SOUND WAS AN ALTERNATIVE to mainstream, commodified Pride celebrations,” says JS Adams, reflecting on the exhibit’s origins in 1999. In the twenty-six years since, the annual show-

case has blossomed into what the 71-year-old founder and curator calls “a multi-faceted arts festival, all volunteer-driven,” spotlighting local queer musicians and visual artists.

While the performance aspect of this year’s



JS ADAMS, after (*Canute Rebukes His Courtiers* by Alphonse-Marie-Adolphe de Neuville)



Ruth Trevarrow, *Caution Sign*



Keith Stanley, *Fiber of Being*



Julie Paez, *Gaia*



Todd Franson, *Exist / Resist Subject #3, Wild Mushroom*



John Paradiso, *SILENCE=DEATH*

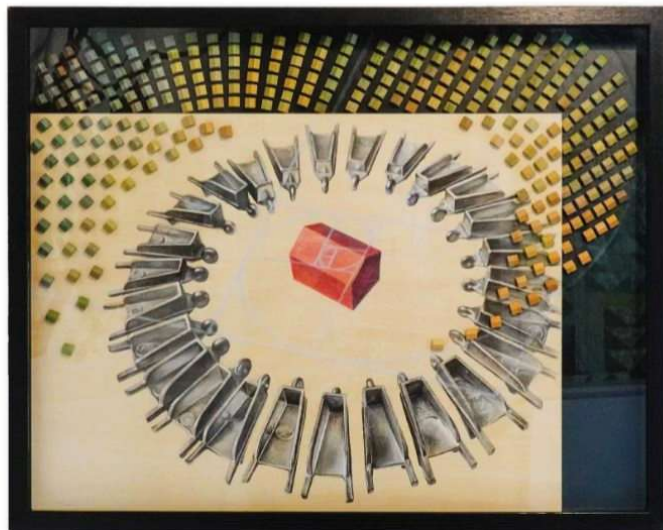


Frederick Nunley, *Diversity Unites*

Queering Sound wraps up this weekend, the visual art exhibit remains on view at Rhizome DC through June 22. This year's show features 31 pieces by more than 20 local LGBTQ artists working across painting, photography, printmaking, illustration, and mixed media. "We went a little larger than usual because of WorldPride," notes Adams.

Each year, Adams proposes a theme for participating artists, who are given the option to submit existing works or create new ones in response.

"The theme is 'Resist/Exist,'" he says. "The queer community is under attack by our own government right now. I wanted to have an exhibit that shows the artists' direct interpre-



tation of that theme by asking, 'What is important for you to exist? What are you going to fight?'"

The pieces range in tone from instantly impactful — such as Ruth Trevarrow's "Caution Sign" — to more nuanced and unsettling, like Tom Hill's "One Day I'll Be Complete," or quietly evocative, as in John Paradiso's "Silence=Death."

They can be whimsical in craftsmanship (Mei Mei Chang's "Box Camera, Record Player") or lustrous in sheer beauty (Todd Fran-son's "Wild Mushroom"). Some convey urgent political messages (Michael Crossett's "Retaliate"), while others offer a sense of uplift (Dilip Sheth's "Blues Caravan").

Asked to name a favorite, Adams just laughs. "Can I say all of them?" —*Randy Shulman*

Queering Sound remains on view through Saturday, June 22, at Rhizome DC, 6950 Maple St. NW, Washington, D.C. Free and open to the public during scheduled events and by appointment.

For more information, including the full schedule and artist lineup, visit www.queeringsound.com.