

In lieu of and/or serving as a statement, I offer the work I am involved with:

1. Kalik | Գալիք

Kalik – As in, Forthcoming. Next. The soon-to-come. Near Future.

www.kalik.org

Kalik is an interdisciplinary arts company & spaceship. We arrive at artmaking as generative and transformative mediums for expressing urgent truths, recalling ancestral stories and teachings, while simultaneously visioning future worlds that centre healing, justice, and love. Through Kalik we will create and produce original and participatory interdisciplinary art, performances, films, digital media, literature, events, gatherings and workshops, working with and alongside many artists, creatives, and advocates for the kinds of worlds and communities we know are possible and that we are actively building.

Kalik has grown from the need to:

- disrupt the (inequity, fuckery, and brutality of the) systems we live in
- reclaim our cultural knowings and practices
- celebrate our queer and gender-fabulousness
- create great art that represents the experiences of those of us typically underrepresented or not at all represented in dominant media

Our approach as interdisciplinary: theatre & performance • feature films and shorts • video art • visual & digital art • transmedia projects • zines • poetry • essays • articles • curated exhibitions & events • installations • virtual archives • games • novels • memoirs • workshops • conferences & panels • festivals • tours • art & merchandise sales

Collaboration as methodology: Working collaboratively and within community is a high priority for our work, not only to execute the best possible art, but also politically to be building community and connecting with folks to create meaningful engagement and dialogue. We see Kalik as a platform that will engage artists and creative people at all stages of the learning/making process.

HISTORY

Kalik comes from the collaborative partnership between Kamee Abrahamian and lee williams boudakian. We are interdisciplinary artists, producers, and facilitators invested in storytelling that integrates our ancestral and cultural herstories, grapples with our current worlds, and visions into futures that centre the lives and stories of those of us currently living on the fringe and in the margins.

We are a blend of creative and practical-make-it-happen-despite-the-odds. We first came together to create [Dear Armen](#), a multidisciplinary arts and performance project that weaves together the voices and struggles of three generations of Armenian women, gender-benders and queers. The project was conceived during a three-week artist residency in September 2013 at the Abrahamian Arts Centre in Yerevan, Armenia. Since its inception, Dear Armen

has morphed from staged reading to interdisciplinary production featuring two distinct versions and five incarnations, which have toured throughout Canada, USA, and Armenia. Out of our work with Dear Armen has a grown a creative partnership, vision, and mission that is becoming Kalik.

2. ShapeShift Arts

www.shapeshiftarts.com

The name ShapeShift comes from a love of science fiction and a recognition that future-building includes acts of science fiction and suspension of disbelief in the now. To us, ShapeShifters are creators, change makers, code-switchers and people who dare to confront the many parts of self and community that must be faced in order to create/enact/accomplish radical change.

As ShapeShifters, we embrace change. We learn change and recognize it as essential and constant in perpetually evolving sets of variables. As ShapeShifters, we understand that identity, the politics of identity, and the politics of the worlds that we inhabit have performative elements, and as such, we investigate the narratives, characters and conditions we are living with/in, and seek to disrupt and alter and shift the problematic parts.

As ShapeShifters, we are also folks who embody and straddle multiple and intersecting identities. By virtue of who and what and where we are born into, we have to be multiple (and sometimes opposing) things at the same time. Chameleon-like, we move in and out of spaces, sometimes blending in so well that we seem to be invisible. And/but here & now, we are taking the risks to make visible the multiple selves we embody and necessarily Shape and Shift, in and out of.

ShapeShifting includes (among many things) acts of learning, changing, creating, art-ing, speaking, sparking, rebelling, disrupting, redefining, rebuilding, performing, transitioning, becoming...

As ShapeShift Arts grows, it will encompass a collection of voices and works spanning a range of interdisciplinary artistic creations, workshops, actions, interventions, rituals, and gatherings.

3. A bio

lee williams boudakian (uses they, them, theirs pronouns) is a queer, non-binary trans, Armenian-Liverpudlian mixie with familial ties to Lebanon, Syria, what is current-day southeastern Turkey, and Liverpool, England. Born in Scarborough, Ontario and having moved many times, lee currently works as an interdisciplinary artist, writer, producer and facilitator based in Vancouver, unceded Coast Salish territories. Current love projects include [Kalik](#), [ShapeShift Arts](#), [Dear Armen](#), and [The HyePhen Mag](#). lee arrives at artmaking as acts of resistance, world&future visioning, and celebration towards liberation and healing.