

Dear people of Utrecht and Europe at large,

My name is Kembra Pfahler, and I'm the lead singer for a band I started a long time ago called "The Voluptuous Horror of Karen Black". I never really came to Europe on tour with my band aside for a few times because people always said: "Oh, they love artists in Europe ... They will love and appreciate and support you". So naturally I felt like: "Why should I go there? ... They don't need me ... I'll play where I am not wanted; in the bowels of the United States. Which I did for about a decade. I saw artists and musicians that had no relevance or commitment in New York travel to Europe and get famous. So odd ... It's always been a bit of a quagmire to me. The band and my work has a bit of a following, but I work by myself in my apartment. I don't have a record company or management of any kind. No PR machine. When Asia Argento asked me to participate and share what has happened with Future Feminism, I was happy to accept. I've been sitting in New York trying to compose a press release for you all for weeks. Johanna said whatever I wrote would be fine, but it's been impossible. It doesn't feel like right to sell myself or to sell feminism. I'm hoping to share with everyone who comes to this concert on the opening night of the "Le Guess Who?" festival a dance performance by Johanna Constantine, and a performance by me and women I hope to meet and collaborate with in Utrecht. (If you all are seeing this and want to be in the performance write me at kembra1@yahoo.com). We will be singing and setting to music to the 13 Tenets of Future Feminism.

I think it would be apt to call this night "The Cat is out of the Bag". That's a colloquialism in our culture here that essentially means: "Let a secret be known, or to reveal facts that have previously been hidden. Spill the beans, to babble and sing". The tenets of future feminism were written by the core group of Future Feminism: Johanna Constantine, Anohni, Bianca and Sierra of Coco Rosie, and me. We spent several years spending time together in a "retreat" paradigm where we would get together for a week at a time and write and sit together and speak about our ideas and art. Sometimes the days lasted 15 hours. It was for all of us really the first time we'd ever spent such intense hours listening and sharing in concert. We thought to work in the direction of having a show all together; unauthored as individuals but given to the world as an affinity group. When we collectively started to conceptualize what we would actually make, we looked at the massive piles of notes and papers in the center of the circle we had formed and realized what we had made were actual tenets ... directives ... a manifesto of sorts. And we named these things the 13 tenets of Future Feminism. The last few years have wrought much change. The group of friends painfully dissolved, although Anohni, Johanna and I are still perpetuating by any means necessary the core principles of Future Feminism. These tenets to us are ethics and philosophies that are put into practice on a daily basis. Despite the hardship that went along with the dissolution of the original core group, I can say that doing this project has been a very good experience. I found it really impossible to write a press release to sell this night to you all. I can't. I don't like show business, entertainment. I'm doing concerts and performance because it is a way to color this world of ours with an activity that lifts the spirits.

I started doing a band because I couldn't imagine how hideous life would be just as an artist in the art world. Now we have a term called "interdisciplinary"; meaning we are artists that don't have a hierarchy of mediums when we make things, and it seems like it's almost a new standard to activate one's quieter objects and pictures with sounds and performance. But for decades our perspectives on performance, feminism, all the things that seem to be the zeitgeist today, were met with bottles being thrown at you, and being chased down the street by 5-0. It's a new beginning again. Maybe this new popularity will guide us into a gentler female hour; say thirteen o'clock. What used to be a horror number is now under reexamination: being female, having feminine indigenous core values. Maybe this new re examination is being taken more seriously ... We'll see. To me, these philosophies have been a way of life my entire life, and I can't really see the world proliferating under the rough hands of

a masculine clock that ends at twelve. This clock stuff is a metaphor, you know ... I'm freestyling a little. Anyhow...

It's summertime in New York as I write this to you all in Utrecht. We are in Donald Trump's abdomen here ... getting torn apart by his stomach acids ... You see mountains of homeless crazy folks in the street these days here. Along with a new influx of tourists eager to stay in "air b and b's" which have infected the whole city. Seeing that most new Yorkers can't really afford to live here anymore. It feels like a Matrix city almost. Many people have decided to leave the country in response to the confusion that this financial fascism has permeated our airstreams with. I can't afford to leave, so I'm here to sink with ship ... Very wealthy artists I know have decided to get Australian citizenship to escape if necessary. For me, bad news has been coming though since as far back as I can remember: Politically, with Vietnam and with the freedom my parents fought for back in the day. Our democracy slowly eroding and the current temperature shifting so swiftly sometimes I feel like nothing more than content for another science fiction Netflix series. We've all been terrorized into isolation and view the internet as an authentic form of information sharing. You know, having benevolent Yelp reviews can take one very far.

In the new days of "appligence" or application driven intelligence I always remember it's really just a bunch of dudes primarily uploading all this information for us to breathe. It's vital to seek one another out in person. To go to each others shows, to sit in a circle and speak face to face despite the awkwardness of doing so, to work in tandem with one another, not being led by a religion, or an enigmatic showbizz force, or a popular Instagram ... In my opinion strength comes from us as grassroots artists ... and we all hopefully will retain the where-with-all to actually physically still visit with one another ... "The Cat is out of the Bag" means that the time is nigh. There's no turning back, and we all know how bad things are ... We are in a "Liminal Phase" in my opinion ... Trying to puzzle together the pieces of a sustainable future. This is why Future Feminism was created, and this is what we'll be singing about for the first event of this festival.

There's no sound bite or clever press release I can write to you all to hope that you will all come. We've seen the sacrifice people like Asia Argento have made to tell her story: to let the cat out of the bag. And there's essentially no turning back. The Future is not female, for we have no future unless it is female.

Hope to see you all on November 9th.

Love,

Kembra Pfahler

August 2018, NYC

P.S. We will also be having a future Feminist discussion on November 10 with Johanna and I.

On the 11th, we will show folks what we made of previous performances and ceremonies of Future Feminism at Aarhus Denmark and in NYC.