

NOV 13, 2024 — ONGOING

assume
vivid
astro
focus:
XI



(ENGLISH)

assume vivid astro focus: XI
NOV 13, 2024—ongoing

assume vivid astro focus (avaf) is a multidisciplinary art collective founded in New York City in 2001. Emerging as digital technologies and the internet were becoming increasingly integrated with daily life, avaf embodies the era's promise of democratized information and spirit of global connectivity. Embracing digital tools and collaborative artmaking imbued with radical versatility, avaf has continued to create immersive installations and participatory projects that suspend notions of authorship, inviting diverse forms of audience engagement to foster vibrant networks of expression and exchange.

Originally conceived and installed in 2004, *XI* reflects avaf's dynamic and inclusive vision for a truly public art. The installation envelops visitors in a riot of color and form, with densely patterned walls, multicolored seating, a modular stage, and sculptures that shapeshift into performative stage elements. Designed to be flexible and adaptable, *XI*'s components are not unlike digital graphics in image-editing software, evoking boundless virtual worlds where elements can endlessly shift and transform. Vivid colors further shape the gallery's atmosphere—what avaf describes as its “energy”—functioning as another material the collective uses to entice an immersive and active experience.

Anchoring this installation is the large-scale projection *Butch Queen Realness with a Twist in Pastel Colors*, a video program drawn from nearly a hundred moving-image works by a diverse array of creators, spanning the early twentieth century to 2004. Curated by avaf before the advent of crowdsourcing and YouTube, this video collection encapsulates the collective's vision for an egalitarian, freely accessed platform of digital content at a time when the circulation of such media was challenging and far more limited. Sourced primarily from online chat rooms and peer-to-peer networks—like Yahoo fan groups and community websites where rare-media enthusiasts shared their collections—avaf's program includes clips from works by artists Yoko Ono and László Moholy-Nagy, music videos by Grace Jones and Le Tigre, and footage from voguing performances in New York City during the early 2000s.

The installation aligns with the optimism and exuberance of queer subcultures and identities. Representations of drag queens, iconic LGBTQ+ figures, and moments of queer resilience and activism are palpable throughout the gallery and the videos. Central to *XI* and avaf's practice, queerness serves not only as subject matter but also as a lens for reframing perceptions, challenging rigid constructs of identity and social, artistic, and cultural conventions. This perspective invites viewers to embrace fluidity and versatility, encouraging them to recognize their own ability to exist in diverse, even conflicting, forms and expressions—qualities at the core of both *XI* and avaf.

Here at The Bass, two decades after its creation, *XI* continues to resonate as a prescient exploration of the power of art, social space, and technology to bring together and build community. Simultaneously an artwork, performance stage, screening room, meeting space, and dance club, *XI* resists static interpretation, perpetually reimagining itself with each new encounter and interaction.



(ESPAÑOL)

assume vivid astro focus (avaf) es un colectivo artístico multidisciplinario fundado en la ciudad de Nueva York en 2001. Surgido en una época en la que las tecnologías digitales y el internet se integraban cada vez más a la vida cotidiana, *avaf* encarna la promesa de la era de información democratizada y el espíritu de conectividad global. Utilizando herramientas digitales y una práctica artística colaborativa caracterizada por una versatilidad radical, *avaf* ha seguido creando instalaciones inmersivas y proyectos participativos que suspenden las nociones de autoría, invitando diversas formas de participación para fomentar redes vibrantes de expresión e intercambio.

Concebida e instalada originalmente en 2004, *XI* refleja la visión dinámica e inclusiva de *avaf* de un arte verdaderamente público. La instalación envuelve a la audiencia en un estallido de color y forma, con paredes densamente intervenidas, asientos multicolores, un escenario modular y esculturas que cambian de forma y se transforman en elementos escénicos performativos. Diseñados para ser flexibles y adaptables, los componentes de *XI* son similares a los de un *software* de edición de imágenes, evocando mundos virtuales ilimitados donde los elementos pueden cambiar y transformarse infinitamente. Los colores vivos moldean aún más la atmósfera de la galería—lo que *avaf* describe como su "energía"—y funcionan como otro material que el colectivo utiliza para generar una experiencia inmersiva y activa.

El eje de la instalación es la proyección a gran escala de "*Butch Queen Realness with a Twist in Pastel Colors*", un repertorio de videos elaborados a partir de casi un centenar de obras de imágenes en movimiento de diversos creadores, que abarca desde principios del siglo XX hasta 2004. Esta colección de videos, curada por *avaf*, refleja la visión del colectivo de una plataforma digital igualitaria y de acceso abierto en una época en la que la circulación de contenido digital era difícil y mucho más limitada. Los videos fueron recopilados principalmente en salas de chat en línea y redes de intercambio—como grupos de aficionados de Yahoo y sitios web comunitarios donde los entusiastas de contenido digital inauditos compartían sus colecciones. *Butch Queen Realness with a Twist in Pastel Colors* incluye fragmentos de obras de artistas como Yoko Ono y László Moholy-Nagy, videos musicales de Grace Jones y Le Tigre, y material de archivo de actuaciones de *voguing* en Nueva York durante los primeros años del 2000.

La instalación se alinea con el optimismo y la exuberancia de las subculturas e identidades *queer*. Representaciones de *drag queens*, figuras icónicas LGBTQ+ y momentos de resiliencia y activismo *queer* son palpables a lo largo de la galería y los videos. La experiencia *queer*, que es central en *XI* y la práctica de *avaf*, no sólo sirve como tema sino también como un lente para replantear percepciones, desafiando las rígidas construcciones de identidad y las convenciones sociales, artísticas y culturales. Esta perspectiva invita a les espectadores a abrazar la fluidez y la versatilidad, alentándoles a reconocer su propia capacidad de existir en formas y expresiones diversas e incluso conflictivas, cualidades que constituyen el núcleo tanto de *XI* como de *avaf*.

Aquí en The Bass, dos décadas después de su creación, *XI* continúa resonando como una exploración profética del poder del arte, el espacio social y la tecnología para unir y construir comunidad. Siendo simultáneamente una obra de arte, escenario de performances, sala de proyecciones, espacio de reunión y club de baile, *XI* se resiste a la interpretación estática, y se reinventa constantemente con cada nuevo encuentro e interacción.



Exhibition Checklist

1. assume vivid astro focus
avaf Doorway, 2004
Decal
Dimensions variable
Collection of The Bass
Gift of Rosa and Carlos de la Cruz
2. Justin Samson
The Magical Mystery Mystical Mountain Man, 2004
Mixed media
81 × 24 × 27 in.
Collection of The Bass
Gift of Rosa and Carlos de la Cruz
3. assume vivid astro focus
Fantasia Lords Kitty Adora Ebonee Akasha Royale Gaga Dead Petals, 2024
Painted mural
Dimensions variable
Courtesy of avaf
4. assume vivid astro focus
Hot Butterfly, 2004
Decal
Dimensions variable
Courtesy of avaf
5. assume vivid astro focus
Roller Bumpers, 2004, reimagined 2024
Vinyl fabric, plywood, and foam
Dimensions variable
Collection of The Bass
Gift of Rosa and Carlos de la Cruz
6. assume vivid astro focus
Rotating Diamond II, 2004
Laminated digital print
mounted on board, and hardware
107 × 54 in.
Collection of The Bass
Gift of Rosa and Carlos de la Cruz
7. assume vivid astro focus
Disco Judd Stage Set, 2004
Aluminum, plexiglass, wood,
light fixtures, battery packs, and fans
Dimensions variable
Collection of The Bass
Gift of Rosa and Carlos de la Cruz
8. assume vivid astro focus
avalanches volcanoes asteroids floods,
2017/24
Digitally printed rug installation
Dimensions variable
Courtesy of avaf

avalanches volcanoes asteroids floods is an installation composed of existing avaf works from The Bass's permanent collection. These works entered the collection as gifts from
9. assume vivid astro focus
Rotating Diamond I, 2004
Laminated digital print
mounted on board, and hardware
107 × 54 in.
Collection of The Bass
Gift of Rosa and Carlos de la Cruz
10. Michael Lazarus
Untitled, 2003–4
Oil and enamel on wood panel
61 × 70 in.
Collection of The Bass
Gift of Rosa and Carlos de la Cruz
11. General Idea
AIDS, 1989
Wallpaper
Dimensions variable
Collection of The Bass
Gift of Rosa and Carlos de la Cruz
12. assume vivid astro focus
Garden I, 2002, reimagined 2024
Wallpaper
Dimensions variable
Collection of The Bass
Gift of Rosa and Carlos de la Cruz
13. assume vivid astro focus
Butch Queen I, 2004
Wallpaper
Dimensions variable
Collection of The Bass
Gift of Rosa and Carlos de la Cruz
14. Michael Lazarus
Move On II, 2024
Acrylic and enamel on shaped canvas
47 × 17 × 17 in.
Courtesy of the artist
15. assume vivid astro focus
Butch Queen II (Rosa), 2004
Wallpaper
Dimensions variable
Collection of The Bass
Gift of Rosa and Carlos de la Cruz
16. Marco Boggio Sella
The Benefactor, 2004
Aqua-resin, acrylic, rice, and beeswax
96 × 72 × 36 in.
Collection of The Bass
Gift of Rosa and Carlos de la Cruz
17. assume vivid astro focus
Morris Inverted K, 2004
Drywall, wood, and paint
Dimensions variable
Collection of The Bass
Gift of Rosa and Carlos de la Cruz
18. assume vivid astro focus
Vasarely, 2004
Decal
Dimensions variable
Collection of The Bass
Gift of Rosa and Carlos de la Cruz
19. assume vivid astro focus
Brick Wall VJ Booth, 2004
Plywood, brick paneling, grout, casters,
video projector, and DVD
87½ × 32 × 58 in.
Collection of The Bass
Gift of Rosa and Carlos de la Cruz
20. assume vivid astro focus
avaf vs. Honeygun Labs, 2004
Video
1:33 mins
Collection of The Bass
Gift of Rosa and Carlos de la Cruz
21. assume vivid astro focus
LSE ABBA Fassbinder, 2004
Video
9:11 mins
Collection of The Bass
Gift of Rosa and Carlos de la Cruz
22. assume vivid astro focus
Folding Suspiria Screen with Big Sur, 2004
Wallpaper, MDF, poplar, mirror, and hardware
58 × 73 × 14 in.
Collection of The Bass
Gift of Rosa and Carlos de la Cruz
23. assume vivid astro focus
avaf masks, 2004
Printed paper masks
Dimensions variable
Collection of The Bass
Gift of Rosa and Carlos de la Cruz
24. assume vivid astro focus
Stylewars Graffiti, 2004
Decal
Dimensions variable
Collection of The Bass
Gift of Rosa and Carlos de la Cruz
25. assume vivid astro focus
Butch Queen Realness with a Twist in Pastel Colors, 2004/24
Curated video program, 93 video clips
6:32 hrs
Courtesy of avaf
26. assume vivid astro focus
Butch Queen III, 2004
Wallpaper
Dimensions variable
Collection of The Bass
Gift of Rosa and Carlos de la Cruz
27. assume vivid astro focus
avaf Paper Graffiti, 2004/24
Print
Dimensions variable
Collection of The Bass
Gift of Rosa and Carlos de la Cruz

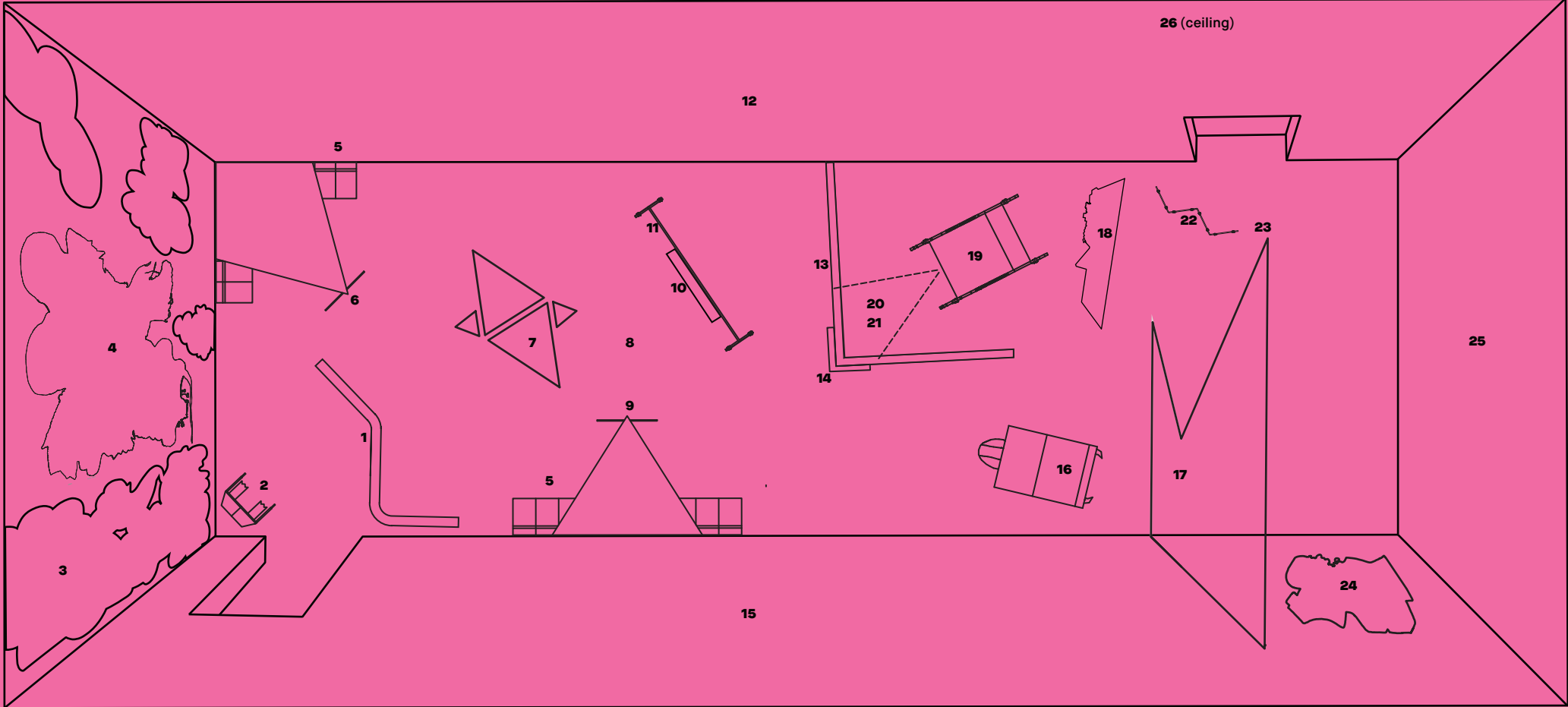
This brochure, a manifestation of *avaf Paper Graffiti*, is the 27th work in the exhibition. Presented as a fold-out poster, it is freely available for you to take. By doing so, you carry a piece of *XI* home and join the many who activate and co-create this work alongside avaf.



Scan the QR code for more info on
assume vivid astro focus: XI
or visit thebass.org/art



Explore The Bass with our digital guide
on Bloomberg Connects, the free arts
and culture app







assume vivid astro focus: XI is curated by Claudia Mattos, Associate Curator of New Media Art.

Featuring collaborations and works by General Idea, Honeygun Labs, Natalja Kent, Michael Lazarus, Los Super Elegantes, Carla Machado, Justin Samson, Marco Boggio Sella, and Pete Woods. Exhibition design by Tiago Guimarães and *assume vivid astro focus: XI* includes a special tribute to iconic drag performers in Miami: Adora, Akasha O'Hara Lords, Daisy Dead Petals, Ebonee Excell, Fantasia Royale Gaga, Kitty Meow, Tiffany Fantasia, and TP Lords.

assume vivid astro focus and The Bass are deeply grateful to Carlos de la Cruz and the late Rosa de la Cruz for their generous gift of *XI* to the museum.

The Bass Museum of Art is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. The Bass is generously funded by the City of Miami Beach, Cultural Affairs Program, Cultural Arts Council; the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners; the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and the National Endowment for the Arts; and The Bass membership.

MIAMI BEACH

