

# beautiful distress

March 2021

Beautiful Distress is looking for a

CURATOR

for its special theme exhibition: "What the butler saw; reflections on power, psychiatry and sexuality".

With thematic art exhibitions Beautiful Distress wishes to zoom in and draw attention to specific subjects surrounding the theme of mental suffering. In June 2022 Beautiful Distress wishes to organize a special, multidisciplinary exhibition that questions the position and situation of the LGBTQ community in the current times set against the experiences of the playwright Joe Orton in his life and work some 50 years ago. Questions such as: Who sets the standard, what children does a time bear? And how do we deal with marginalization, discrimination and exclusion today? form the basis of this exhibition.

The candidate we are looking for preferably has a relevant curatorial background and/or experience, and affinity with the theme and issues of the exhibition. We invite applicants, with a personal curatorial vision, interested in social issues and themes, who focus on engaging with visitors and the wider community, and enjoy collaborating with a multi-disciplinary artist group of both performing and visual artists.

Please send a cover letter and your CV before April 15, 2021.  
For more information about this vacancy:

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#### *About Beautiful Distress:*

*Beautiful Distress makes mental suffering visible and tangible through art*

Beautiful Distress uses art to increase understanding of and compassion for those who deal with mental suffering. Art appeals to our senses and our intellect, can inspire us to look at things differently and can make us aware of our own prejudices. Nine out of ten people with a mental vulnerability/illness experience prejudice or exclusion. This impacts not only their lives and those around them, but society as a whole.

We organize artist residency programs in psychiatric hospitals in both New York and Japan. In both residencies, professional artists are invited to live and work on location for three months. They observe the world of psychiatry and create work that is inspired by what they see and experience. While the quality and the autonomy of the art produced is always paramount, the works can make mental suffering visible, increase empathy and understanding, and help to break taboos around mental illness.

Beautiful Distress also runs a beautiful exhibition and project space in Amsterdam Noord, near the NDSM wharf. We are actively focused on being a participatory, inclusive and diverse space, where everyone feels at home and where ideas and experiences can be shared freely. Our goal is to, always with art and artists, work towards creating a more inclusive society, through art exhibitions and projects and through interaction between all interest groups: artists, patients, families, health care professionals, policy makers and the general public, and specifically young people. Beautiful Distress welcomes diverse perspectives, cultural backgrounds, ages, genders, sexual orientations and religious beliefs.

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