Media Awards Application Cover Sheet

Category: Text and Online Journalism

Entry Title: Archer Magazine #16: The Disabilities Issue

Name of Applicant: Roz Bellamy

Organisation: Archer Magazine
Colour me a mad woman
By Nicole Lee

AUTHOR BIO: Nicole Lee is an anti-violence activist with a focus on women with disabilities in the prevention of family violence space. She is a sometimes writer, public speaker, inaugural Victims Survivors Advisory Council member, and an unapologetic ranting feminist with plenty of cats.

INTRO: An exploration of madness, anorexia, violence and unsafe psychiatric care.

PULLQUOTES:

“It’s not mad to fight, or to refuse to trust a system that has been used to damage you in the past”

“...part of me, like much of society, buys into the myth that blame for my predicament somehow lies with me”

“This brand of toxic positivity represents an unforgivable denial of my human experience and offhandedly implies that my brain’s current preoccupation with the trauma I’ve been subjected to is somehow a failure of resilience, and not the result of the many factors that have traumatised me.”

Medical racism
By Tuesday Atzinger

AUTHOR BIO: Tuesday Atzinger is an emerging writer and poet living, working and studying on Wurundjeri land. Their work centres around issues of class, anti-Blackness, feminism, queerness and disability. When they aren’t waxing lyrical about their cane (Adjustable! Sleek! Black! Fritz handle!) they can be found online, using Twitter badly.

INTRO: Marginalised communities are vulnerable to medical neglect, racism and outright maltreatment in some healthcare settings.

PULLOUTQUOTES:

“As a Black, queer, disabled person, my experience with medical institutions has been one of relentless neglect to the point of ongoing harm”

“...it had become standard practice among my queer, disabled and chronically ill friends to accompany one another to medical appointments for moral support. We were all so used to being dismissed and going unheard that medical appointments had become a source of anxiety and, for some of us, trauma.”

“She told me this story in the same way she told me how to behave around police, how to keep myself safe. To be unaware of the intersections of my identity was dangerous.”
Alone in a crowd
By Beau Windon

AUTHOR BIO: Beau Windon is a neurodivergent writer of Wiradjuri descent based in Naarm/Melbourne. He wishes he was a Green Lantern but since that’s not possible he instead diverts his imagination into writing creative non-fiction, poetry and YA fiction.

INTRO: Some people struggled with social isolation long before the pandemic.

PULLQUOTES:

“I’m difficult. I know I am. I’ve been told that my whole life and I see how different I am from others. How much trouble and stress I cause those around me”

“My chronic mental health issues never mattered to these politicians. I didn’t matter to them. But now that mental illness isn’t relegated to the fringes of society, it is suddenly an important social issue”

“There is no longer anything ‘wrong’ with me; now I’m just pedantic about the virus”

Misreading multiplicity
By Patrick Gunasekera, with Kitty and Mattie

AUTHOR BIO: Patrick Gunasekera is a writer, performer and multi-disciplinary artist of Sinhala migrant heritage, living and working from Whadjuk Noongar Boodjar. He is an arts journalist with Seesaw Magazine, and has published neurodivergent life writing and sex poetry respectively in the anthologies Growing Up Disabled in Australia and To Hold the Clouds.

This piece was written with two of his current protective alters, Kitty and Mattie, who prefer to keep to themselves but are delighted to be credited here.

INTRO: Loving life with dissociative identity disorder is a powerful act of resistance, subversion and self-care – even when hidden in plain sight.

PULLQUOTES:

“Streetwise hands enter mine, take bathroom to, untie detangle comb coconut oil her long curls through”

“Repeated folds of trauma drape to brain”

“But always, always – body-mind so speaks, body-mind so resisted, body-mind so knows”
Archer #16 – the DISABILITIES issue

Available digitally at:
https://issuu.com/archermagazine/docs/archer16_issuu
“It has been thrilling to commission writing about sex, sexuality and gender and its intersections with disabilities, Deafness, mental illness and neurodivergence. The mainstream world often stigmatises and judges those of us who are different, while Archer Magazine makes space for nuance, complexity, curiosity and a celebration of difference.”

- ROZ BELLAMY, editor-in-chief, Archer Magazine #16

The DISABILITIES issue features articles that explore the impact of COVID-19 on people with disabilities, experiences of medical racism, trauma recovery through sex work and kink, and the future of disability justice, plus an interview with Deaf dancer ELVIN LAM.

This issue features content on:

* The cost of peer work by IS HAY
* Institutional abuse by JANE ROSENGRAVE
* Loneliness and COVID-19 by BEAU WINDON
* Gender and madness by NICOLE LEE
* Always being the ‘ally’ by CHLOE SARGEANT
* Perfection in elite sport by ISIS HOLT
* Finding freedom in sex work by MAYBE LEIGH
* Collective liberation by JULIA ROSE BAK
* Dissociative identity disorder by PATRICK GUNASEKERA
* Reparenting by ROSE BROADWAY
* Medical racism by TUESDAY ATZINGER
* Parenting and disability by EMILY DASH
* Asexuality and disability by GISELLE
* A bipolar diagnosis and a marriage by KJ
* Kink and mental health by MURRAY TURNER-JONES

Plus images by FRANCES BUKOSVKY, NICOLE WHEAT and NELLY SKOUFATOGLOU.

The striking front cover image features GEMMA ADBY and was taken from an Archer exclusive Zoom photo shoot for this issue titled ‘Disabilities and Desire’, shot by NELLY SKOUFATOGLOU.

“I am a proud, disabled, queer, trans and mad young person, but when I am required to be the ‘good one’ – a palatable and productive version of each of these aspects of my identity – just to be able to pay my rent, pride becomes exhausting.” — IS HAY, Archer Magazine #16
COLOUR ME A MAD WOMAN

Words: NICOLE LEE
Images: KATHARINE T. JACOBS

An exploration of madness, anorexia, violence and unsafe psychiatric care.

THE PRESSURES OF PERFECTION

Words: ISIS HOLT
Images: JADE FLORENCE

Elite sport demands that able-bodied athletes and para-athletes have ‘perfect’ bodies.
Elvin Lam is a Deaf dancer based in Melbourne. Born in Hong Kong, Elvin moved to Melbourne two decades ago to study at university and embrace his queer identity. Before Elvin strapped on his first pair of dancing shoes in his teenage years, he had trained and competed in figure skating for 10 years. Elvin caught up with Jasmine Shirreffs to discuss deafness, dancing and how the pandemic has changed the way he moves and connects with audiences.
Nicole Wheat has a BFA in Illustration from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia and an AAS in Graphic Design from Suffolk County College, New York. Nicole was born with severe hearing loss and started to lose her vision in early adulthood. She was diagnosed with Usher syndrome at the age of 29. Usher syndrome is a rare and incurable genetic disorder that includes hearing loss, balance issues and the onset of retinitis pigmentosa, a degenerative eye disease that has no known cure. Sharing her experiences and emotions, all figuratively tucked away within each drawing she creates, is something she feels is her purpose.