



FEMINIST
ART COALITION

NOTES ON FEMINISMS

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JACK
HALBERSTAM

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OFF MANIFESTO

To be performed at high octane, loud, and punctuated with the smashing of old iPhones and PDAs

Get off!

Get off-line, off Twitter, off Facebook, off Instagram. Get off the internet, off the mailing list, off base, off message, off your head, off work, off drugs, off drink, off smoking. Get off. Off your boss, off your husband, off your coworkers, off your president, off your local representative, off your well-meaning friend, off your Facebook friends, off your Twitter contacts, off your needy relatives, off yourself. Get off. Get off the bus, get off the train, get off the boat, get off the bed, get off the sofa. Turn off the TV, turn off the radio, turn off the computer, turn off the lights, turn off the switch, turn off the straight and narrow, it's a turnoff, you are a turnoff, it's all a turnoff, what a turnoff, you turn me off, turn everything off, turning on is a turnoff!

Time to hand off, shake it off, shake it off, toss off the manifesto, start off your commute, break it off, go off the beaten path, break it off, tick it off, square off, shake it off, I just wanna, shake it off,¹ hold it off, fend it off, cast it off, head it off, laugh it off, laugh it off, ha ha ha ha, come off it, that's a knockoff, you're a knockoff, knock it off, knock it off, knock it out? No, knock it off, just knock it off. It's a one-off, it's a write-off, it was a brush-off, a toss off, a handoff, a sell-off, a pickoff. He was a jerk off, a jack off, I want to pop off, go off, it's gonna go off, set it off, set it off.

Live off the land, off the hand, off the big and grand, leave off, get off, I'm off, see you later, off you go, go off, get off, no thanks, she went off, it's gone off, we're off, we won't be back, we are off, off to see the wizard, off to shop, it's off-site, off-kilter, off the hook, off-limits, off-balance, off guard, off the charts, off the map, off-road, off-grid, get off the grid, turn down the lights, turn off the lights, turn them off, turn them off.

¹ Taylor Swift, vocalist, "Shake It Off," by Taylor Swift, Max Martin, and Shellback, track 6 on *1989*, Big Machine/Republic, 2014.

It's a payoff, a trade-off, a rip-off, and I was laid off, paid off, and I made off. Was it Madoff? When you start off, you can ward off, you might be better off, if you cast off. Can you throw it off? Will it wear off? Can I bounce this off? Please piss off, fuck off, bugger off, please. Fuck off.

If I may sound off, I recommend you get off. If you get off, you might cool off, fight off, sell off, try to taper off, don't lead off, you cannot shrug it off, does it rub off? Why, why can't we get off, lead off, make off, bake off, shake off, I just wanna, you know, shake it, off, pick it off, walk it off, swim it off, laugh it off, show it off, show and tell? No, just show it off. Can you cut off, put off, ward off, break off, tip off, fend off, trend off, send off, fall off, close off, blow off, face off? Facebook off? Twitter off, Instagram off, trending off, expressing off, boasting off, humblebrag off, virtue signal off, follow off, stalk off, like off, like really off, friend off, check off, beg off, turn off, turn it off, turn it off. I just wanna. Turn it off. Turn me off. Turn me off . . . off . . . of . . . o . . . hello, can you hear me? Can you hear me now? Do you want to hear me now? Hear me out, hear me now, where are we? Have you all gone off? Where is off? What is off? Can we be off? Can we have it off? Can we know off? Can we off? Can we do off? Can we see off? Can we touch off? Can we feel off? Can we smell off?

I know, but this is a send-off, we should walk off, take off, we have launch off, 5, 4, 3, 2 one off, did it go off? We pull off /... to watch men walk on the moon. . . . three two one / blast off.² We have liftoff and it's off, off into the wild blue yonder, and the papers want to know whose shirts I wear,³ shirts off, noses off, hoses off, dildo off? Make off, can you make off? I am making off, I want to make us all off, off-line, off script, on-again, off-again. We can be off again together better than we can be on again together. On together we are just friending, sending, trending, bending, upending, appending, blending. Off together we are all off-loading, off center, off message, off-line, off-line, off-line. Hello, it's me. Hello, can you hear me? Hello from the other side,⁴ the off side, the outside, the never wanna be on the same side. Hello.

Once upon a time we went off, we went off together, we made off, we made off together, we stayed off, we stayed off together, we were off. Going on meant always staying on, never going off, never being off, on and on and on and on. Turn off. Turn it off, turn it off. Off-white, off-color, we are way off, it's a ways off, work your ass off, the wheels have come off,

² Elizabeth Alexander, "Apollo" from *Poetry* (April 1992).

³ David Bowie, vocalist, "Space Oddity," by David Bowie, Philips, July 11, 1969. Lyric altered by the author.

⁴ Adele Adkins, vocalist, "Hello," by Adele Adkins and Greg Kurstin, XL, 2015. Lyric altered by the author.

stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone,⁵ time's up, time's off, don't snap my head off, slag off, shuffle off this mortal coil, are you better off? Time to kick it off, it cannot be far off, call it off, call your fucking dogs off, dogs off, dogs off, because first off, I will brush them off, brush them off, I will kick them off. Off that high horse, get off it, off your rocker, talk someone's ear off, talk to them, just talk off, or take a load off but don't work off, take time off, take off, off duty, off work, off-season, off world. Stop the world . . . I want to, you know . . .

She said get your hands off, hands off, you're off, we're off, it's off, you turned me off. He said, fuck off, I'm gonna get off, she said, get off, he said, I wanna get off, she said, hands off, hands off. He wants to carry her off, she wants to fight him off, he wants to come off, she said, come off it, get off, go off, go home and jack off, time to shut off, shut up, get up, get out, don't get off! You're a bit off, you bit off more than you can chew off, so just back off, push off, slag off, stop this ride, I wanna get off.

The cop said stand off, he said get off the phone, he said back off, she said why are my rights off, he said I am gonna take you off, another said, I can't breathe, I can't breathe, he said, get off, I can't breathe. She said, get off, I ain't done nothing, she said get off me, he said get off the phone, I am ticked off, she said I am gonna lift the lid off this thing, he said turn that phone off, he said, the gloves are off, she said I saw you a mile off, you wanted to head me off, you want me to go off the deep end, I am going off, you want to off me, I am going off, turn that phone off, he can't breathe, he is trying to fight off, but they want him to drop off. They dropped him off, they dropped her off. Both he and she are permanently off. Turn the law off, turn it off, turn it off.

Insist, insist, insist—there is no such thing as repetition, no such thing, she said, only insistence. We insist, turn it up, turn it up, pump up the volume, pump up the jam, make my day, make my day, he said before he shot off, he is always shooting off, stop shooting off, he shot off, they were killed off, they are always killed off first. We insist, we insist that you must break it off, break it off, stop off, it's off the hook, off the cuff, arrrrggggggghhhh, scream off, words off, sense off, lights off, rhythm off, make off, made off, make it off, make it off.

It's a riot! It's gonna go off, we gonna go off, we gotta go off! What's going on, what's going on, who are they to judge us, we are going off, going going gone off, won't be back, don't come back, once you go black, never going back, back off, back it off, back it up, back to the future, back it all up and get off, get off, get off. Never going back . . . on. Never gonna back off, because it's a riot and we are all going off. We are off and running, off and gunning, off and cunning, no more nodding off, slacking off, handing off, flying off, no more calling off, easing off, squeezing off, sloughing off. The gloves are off, the knife is sharp, the way is clear—cut the cord, cut it off, cut it off. Cut.

⁵ W. H. Auden, "Funeral Blues" from *Another Time* (London: Faber & Faber, 1940).

Commissioned by the Feminist Art Coalition (FAC)



Feminist Art Coalition (FAC) is a platform for art projects informed by feminisms. FAC fosters collaborations between arts institutions that aim to make public their commitment to social justice and structural change. It seeks to generate cultural awareness of feminist thought, experience, and action.

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