

## Artist Jason Berlin – Queer Love

A painter, sculptor, Mail Art artist and previous educator, Jason’s work is luscious, other-worldly, investigative, referential, and, at times, totally of the world. Come see his 2D and 3D works in this exhibit from Feb 2-25! Visit Jason’s collective @dispersal\_collective

### artist statement

These are troubling times. Under the ongoing politics in America and around the world it is vital for me to counter hate, lies, and fascism with love and art. In my painting “Queer Love Whatever That Means,” I prompt the view to consider what is Queer Love? What does it mean? Are we not all a little odd, unusual and queer. Are there not different types of love, ways of being and loving? Using the color pink to visually convey messages of masculinity and femininity, I reference traditional meanings of color, current pride flags and the “gay hanky code” from the early 1970s to blur normative assumptions and context.



### bio

Jason Berlin is a Portland-based artist. He received his BFA from Oregon College of Art and Craft in Portland, 2013 and his MFA in Visual Studies from Pacific Northwest College of Art in Portland in 2016. Berlin works in the mediums of oil painting, sculpture, and collage. He uses themes of the everyday, nature, queer aesthetics and improvisational fabrication in his artworks. Hierarchies are disrupted through coded systems of color, the amalgam of disparate materials, and thick layers of paint. These elements are expressed through his autobiographical stance of being blue collar, queer, and a Pacific Northwest native. This framework is both the catalyst and motivation for his research and studio practice.

*Image courtesy of the artist. 2023*