

I guess this all began after that time, a long time ago in a previous partnership, when we had been so wrapped up in our relationship that our sexual desire had faded and had been projected solely onto Angus. It was the most committed and communal connection I've ever had, sparked by a young idealized notion of love and an incredible will to reciprocally give one's self away to the point where there was nothing left to share nor discover. I really liked Angus' touch, it contained so much will to receive and need for affection but I missed the caressing on my own skin. Angus was our cat who we cared for dearly.

That's when I started masturbating on a regular basis - not out of a need to release my libidinal drivers, but as a form of healing and self love. I'd silently touch myself in the shower, progressively doing it more in public toilets on any occasion I felt a need for love. It wasn't so much a routine but an impulse, not to be confused with self-indulgence as I'd like to make a distinction between selflessness and selfishness, though it was the most respectful way I had found to deal with our solid contract in mutual respect. The eroticism lacking in my life had been replaced by a love for myself, which put me back in touch with my individuality. So we broke up.

I learned how to control my body and to consciously abstain from sexual encounters that were becoming more available as a magnetic reaction to keeping the energy within me. I learned how to make love to myself and felt like a boxer before combat building the libidinal energy and channeling it to my will by

rejecting ephemeral encounters and masturbating without reaching orgasm. This became an exercise that improved my relation and focus to and in work, fomenting my social relations on a level beyond sexuality. There was a rewarding feeling that came with celibacy, an energy that fed my motivations and expertise in other aspects of life, stimulating friendship relationships and love for myself.

Occasionally I'd lie in bed with cuddling buddies, bodies with whom I felt a strong connection to, but to whom I didn't want to give a monopoly over my love. It was a safe way to share the new found energy without offering it up unconditionally, though still reciprocally exchanging a sincere friction between our electric bodies.

There was a moment when, without prior meditation, I entered a polyamorous relationship where this friction was generated horizontally amongst a close group of friends. Different relationships were established within the group, some closer to celibate love, others relying on passion or affection, which satisfied every individual's needs without having to project entirely onto one person the expectations and necessities of another. There was no attempt to change someone nor to behave differently to one's desires as the feeling of community made available a variety of loves that made us liquid and elastic, stronger whilst remaining honest to our sense of being different. Inopportunistly it didn't last long, as this community was, in its own way and under its own set of rules - or lack of them - quite separated from the realities of social interactions outside of the group. I think that was my first summer of love.

het hield niet lang stand, aangezien deze gemeenschap gescheiden was van de realiteit van sociale interacties buiten de groep

I hit the small instrument once again, signaling that my confession had ended, not really because I'd finished vomiting but because the reminiscence of these affairs had left me with a pondering feeling that I needed to redigest. Someone defined this as the postliminary effect. There was a brief silence, and then we continued.

Internet Archive Book Images
"The black and gold [serial]" (1910)

Glossary

COMMUNITY (n.)

- "community, society, fellowship, friendly intercourse; courtesy, condescension, affability," from communis "common, public, general, shared by all or many".
- Latin *communitatem* "was merely a noun of quality ... meaning 'fellowship, community of relations or feelings,' but in med.L. it was, like *universitas*, used concretely in the sense of 'a body of fellows or fellow-townsmen'".

MOVEMENT (n.)

- [often with modifier] a group of people working together to advance their shared political, social, or artistic ideas: the labor movement.
- a campaign undertaken by a group of people working together: a movement to declare war on poverty.
- late 14c., from Old French *movement* "movement, exercise; start, instigation"
- *meue-,
- Proto-Indo-European root meaning "to push away."

COMMUNE (n.)

- a group of people living together and sharing possessions and responsibilities.
- a communal settlement in a communist country.
- the smallest French territorial division for administrative purposes.
- a territorial division similar to a French commune in other countries.

IDEOLOGY (n.)

- (plural ideologies) a system of ideas and ideals, especially one that forms the basis of economic or political theory and policy: the ideology of republicanism.
- the ideas and manner of thinking characteristic of a group, social class, or individual: a critique of bourgeois ideology.
- (archaic) visionary speculation, especially of an unrealistic or idealistic nature.
- (archaic) the science of ideas; the study of their origin and nature.

CRISIS (n.)

- a time of intense difficulty, trouble, or danger: the current economic crisis.
- a time when a difficult or important decision must be made: [as modifier] : a crisis point of history.
- the turning point of a disease when an important change takes place, indicating either recovery or death.

image by Vika Ushkanova
workshop in the Love Space Field

