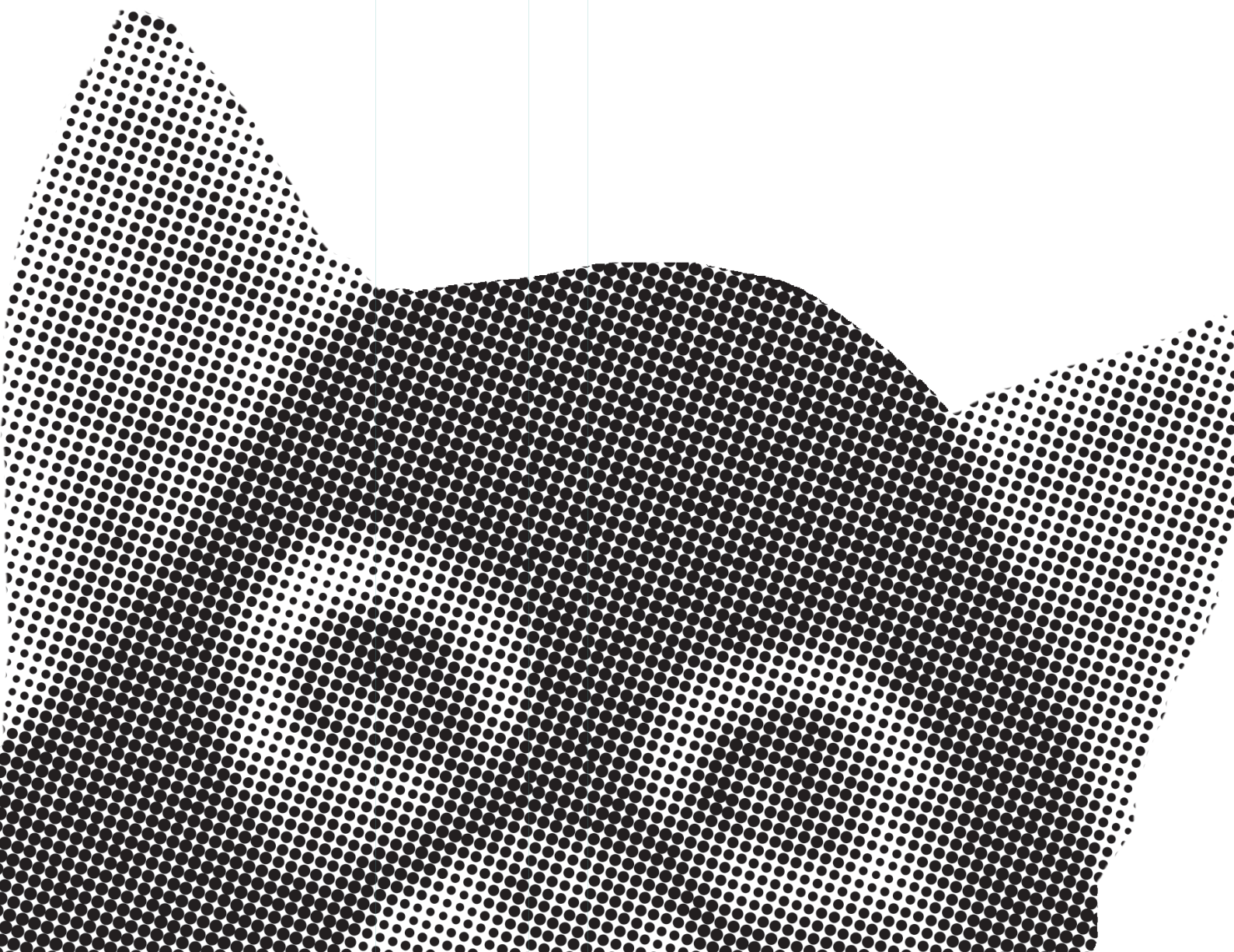


**OUTBURST
ARTS
2023-2025**



**Queer art,
revolutionary imagination.**

WHAT WE'LL DO

Support the development of risk-taking new queer art that ignites fierce curiosity, elevates dissident thinking & sparks radical imagination.

Showcase an annual festival of vital new work by queer artists & producers that amplifies urgent ideas & emerging forms in art, locally & globally.

Centre the growth of queer critical thinking, creating generous spaces for free expression, open exchange & tender disruption.

Embolden queer artists across generations to think, make, expand, share and restore.

Energise queer arts networks & global connections for collaborating, sharing, challenging systematic injustice and imagining queer futures through fearless creativity.

HOW WE'LL DO IT

Boost creative ambition through commissioning & showcasing queer works that make unexpected connections & take daring risks in form and content.

Support queer artists to develop their practice through queer-centred mentoring; peer critique; residencies; & spaces to play, learn & share with other artists, writers & thinkers.

Facilitate bold collaborations that enable queer artists & partners to tap into electrifying new creative potentials.

Make pathways & connections for queer artists, writers and thinkers to travel, share & co-create across borders.

Advocate for a thriving arts ecosystem that supports the realisation of ambition & opportunities for queer artists & deeper connections with audiences.

Hold space for thrilling and challenging art that centres curiosity, enriches ideas around gender and sexuality for all and supports the development of vital thinking and new narratives.

PRODUCTION & SHOWCASING

OUTBURST QUEER ARTS FESTIVAL

The nine-day international festival will continue as Outburst's big showcase platform in each year of development, experimentation and exchanges. A vibrant and welcoming space for sharing and exploring the best in new queer performance, literature, film, music, digital creativity, dance and visual arts. The festival is not just a curated programme of events - it's a sharing point for artists, thinkers and participants in a cycle of queer creation and ideas that flow into and out of the festival moment each year, keeping it fresh, bold and thrilling.

CATFLAP

Home to "smart queer writing with a disco heart", our annual printed periodical of new queer writing amplifies the work of established and new writers, making space for exquisite essays and poetry, challenging new ideas and critical queer creative thinking. By 2025 we aim to bring Catflap into the world biannually, connecting more with local and global contributors and audiences through our year-round literature development programme.

COMMISSIONS

New ideas are the beating heart of what we do, with a big emphasis on supporting local artists to take creative risks and be ambitious in vision.

We'll commission new works from four to six artists each year, supporting them with excellent production and operational expertise to bring their brilliant ideas to life.

CO-PRODUCTIONS & INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Working with other arts groups, companies and venues gives life to daring, ambitious and visionary ideas that wouldn't otherwise be possible. We'll work with at least four partners each year, supporting the artists, producers and companies involved to build everything from landmark projects of scale to intimate new avant-garde experiments that stretch boundaries in artform and hybrid creativity.

DEVELOPMENT

Artists are central to everything that we do, so we want to spend the next few years supporting as many artists as possible to dream bigger, at all different stages of experience, with resourcing, care and support for open critical thinking and making. A big part of artist support is also thinking about how audiences and communities engage and interact with their work, so we want to make sure that understanding and access for a broad range of people are at the core of our work too, with the annual festival as our big gathering moment.

Artist Development Programme

Our flagship development programme for early to mid-career queer artists will see up to four performance makers supported every 12-18 months with an artist led programme of commissions, residencies, peer critique, workshops and sharings, as well as development of access to queer arts networks and other opportunities locally and beyond

Literature Programme

Poetry, prose and critical writing is a massively important platform for queer creative thinking. We'll encourage that further through a dedicated development programme for writers that includes mentoring, workshops and critique, along with showcase opportunities through our new queer writing platform, Catflap, the annual festival and partnership programmes.

Clinic +

We want to share the knowledge, expertise and insights we have in the Outburst team with artists and makers. Our Clinic+ is an on-demand service where any queer artist at any level can book a one-to-one informal chat with our creative team to explore creative problems, ask practical questions, test run an idea, get help with applications or access signposting to more specific support if we can't help directly. We'll make 16 half-hour Clinic + slots available each month, bringing external mentors in as needed.

Salon & Podcasts

Artist and audiences love to talk and so do we. The Outburst Salon offers accessible in-person and online public space every six weeks, where we choose a topical book, issue or guest as a springboard to lively and open facilitated discussion about ideas that matter in queer art. Along with Salon, we'll produce at least six queer arts related podcasts each year, bringing artists and communities together for shared conversations, expert insight and exchange, queer critical reviews and much more.

Touring & International Development

Encountering new audiences and new cultures expands our thinking and stimulates ambition around what is possible, as well as the deepening our understanding of who we are in relation to a wider world of art, ideas and social justice. Through established and expanding international connections, we'll facilitate opportunities for up to four artist each year to artists to travel for research, collaborative projects or showcasing work. We'll also enable least one Outburst-commissioned work to tour beyond Belfast.