

*Epistolary Poem / 17 march 2021*

dear apathy,

yes, i am speaking to you — apathy. the apathetic neighbor who refuses to say “hi” in the hallway. the apathetic neighbor who leaves their junk mail in on the mailboxes in the lobby. no, there isn’t someone to clean up after you. the apathetically over-privileged neighbor who can’t be bothered to sort their recyclables, or breakdown their cardboard, or put trash in the proper receptacle. the apathetic over-privileged liberal person who doesn’t see the connections between capitalism and systemic violence and injustice. this great country was founded on genocide, slavery and destruction — rampant capitalistic overconsumption still relies on slavery and destruction. how do we not make those connections? to the apathetically over-privileged person who thinks its ok to still shop at amazon and walmart. your town is crumbling and all you can think about is where to get more for less. not-to-mention the connections of supply-chains to colonialism and environmental destruction. you can’t be someone who cares about black lives and the environment while in the same breath clicking “purchase” on your bloated digital cart. same day service? or will it be delivered tomorrow? and how does the delivery driver afford health care or child care? how does the warehouse worker protect themselves against illness, not to mention take a bathroom break? how can we continue to consume without regard to our local communities, our fellow human beings, our splendid earth. to the apathetic christian’s out there, i thought we were supposed to be stewards of the earth. we are supposed to take care of our land and each other. so many of you are the least christ-like people i have ever known. to the apathetic so-called libertarians and freedom fighters. your personal freedom cannot come at the expense of your fellow neighbor. when your freedoms impinge on my personal freedoms, we have an issue. the common good requires diligence and care, but i don’t suppose you give a damn. freedom and liberty for all means WE ALL have the same comforts that have been enjoyed by the social and cultural accepted norms. black and brown folk deserve freedom and liberty. our indigenous deserve it. our trans siblings and all those in the lgbyqi spectrum deserve to truly be free and liberate. to the apathetic politicians, this is meant to be a government of the people, by the people, for the people ... now i know what good ‘ol honest abe meant was all the *white, christian, land-owning, straight, male* people, but this is not a government of the rich, by the rich, for the rich — or wait, is it? stop wasting your time seeking donations and get to work for your people. we must get

money out of politics and fix our damn voting system. to the apathetic so-called liberals who as sitting on the sidelines now that your man is in office. these are the times that matter most. nixon didn't become one of the last liberal presidents in history because he was a good guy? we fought. we fought every goddamn day and night. we should have fought when clinton was in office. we should have fought when barrack was in office — but we walked in our sleep. and so far, i see an awful lotta sleeping and walking. to the apathetic teachers. retire. to the apathetic students. go home. to the apathetic cop and military folk — open your eyes and your mouths! not saying something — not stopping someone from abusing their power is just as bad as inflicting the abuse yourself. to apathy, get lost. these are urgent times. our earth is figuratively and literally on fire. we must wake from our sleeping walks and get back to work.

## Journal Entry #3

love letter to me / 17 march

dear john,

i always think about ru paul saying, "if you can't love yourself, how the hell you gonna love someone else?" it rings so true because it hasn't always been easy to love you. but i wanted to share this note to tell you how much i love you. i just wanted to gush a little since i was thinking about you.

you are an energetic person. you have the ability to infect others with energy. you are a hard worker. a doer. you get shit done! when you set your mind to something you do it. and usually pretty damn well. except we know all bets are off after 4p! you are a loyal friend and a decent lover and a loving spouse. you give everything you have when you fall in love — when you see potential in someone. you give everything you have and for that i think you are a good person. you often put others before yourself. i'm not sure if that's because you feel lucky or guilty or what... but your love and generosity is usually palpable.

you've got pretty good hair and an amazing laugh. your voice travels far and is often inspiring. you inspire people. you make people feel better about themselves. you make people want to be better humans. you are a really good teacher. students sometimes take a minute to understand where you are coming from, but once they do, they're sold! again, you give your all to them. they feel loved. you are good at staying connected with people and you are really good at making people feel loved.

you're good in the kitchen. you make a mean cup of coffee. you love to eat! you're a decent vegetarian, but you're a better meat-eating vegetarian. you love sweets and candy and really good food. i know you miss going out to eat because it is one of the most pleasurable (and indulgent) things you do. you're a damn good tipper. the only person i've ever seen tip more than you is our mutual friend jeannine bardo! damn! that one tips!

i was reminded by one of your installations lately and i was entranced. i think you are such a good artist! you have a way with space and light. i can't help but stop in my tracks. you make me think about possibility. about, "what if?" your work is special and i hope one day it gets the recognition it deserves. but i know you hate the establishment too! you are a renegade. a person of true integrity. this is one of the things i love the most about you. but you're also humble and modest. you are a giver, not a taker. you are a true friend. i am grateful you are in my life.

all my love,

john.