

---

Senior Projects Spring 2016

Bard Undergraduate Senior Projects

---

Spring 2016

## Marginalia

Scott Edward Vander Veen  
*Bard College*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.bard.edu/senproj\\_s2016](https://digitalcommons.bard.edu/senproj_s2016)



Part of the [Fine Arts Commons](#), and the [Interdisciplinary Arts and Media Commons](#)



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-No Derivative Works 4.0 License](#).

---

### Recommended Citation

Vander Veen, Scott Edward, "Marginalia" (2016). *Senior Projects Spring 2016*. 203.  
[https://digitalcommons.bard.edu/senproj\\_s2016/203](https://digitalcommons.bard.edu/senproj_s2016/203)

This Open Access work is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been provided to you by Bard College's Stevenson Library with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this work in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/or on the work itself. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@bard.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@bard.edu).

## *Marginalia*

To explain, in a phrase, *Marginalia* is a space of queer esotericism. These terms may be evocative at best; rational understanding, through careful language, is inherently at odds with *Marginalia* itself.

Queerness, esotericism— both are nebulous terms because they invoke rejection and subversion as a means of orientation. They are always antitheses. They reject canon where it comfortably stands: the canon of contemporary aesthetics, of rationality, of identity, sexuality and body. *Marginalia*, as much as it is able, exists explicitly and intentionally outside the narratives that we are most familiar with.

Estranging itself from normative structures, *Marginalia* is given the room to flourish a grotesque decadence and indulge in its own spectacle. It exposes itself, forgets concerns for lewdness, for inclusivity, for limit or shame. It embraces ornament, sensuality, confusion, myth and mysticism.

In the search for a valid sense of queer inheritance and identity, rejection is not necessarily an act of anger or retaliation, but an attempt to re-create. *Marginalia* operates through queer necessities for imagination, secrecy, self-determination and unreality.

We must make do with tantalizing fragments, scattered across time and place; histories only glimpsed, congealed into a reimagined space of belonging. A sensibility much like a fantastic weed pruned or suppressed again and again, only to reappear, in flower.

Scott Vander Veen



































