

BEN COBRA MANIFEST

We live to create. The primal urge from which we originated itself is beauty. Creativity is beauty and no ugliness can be placed in opposition to it. Ugliness is a lack of lust for life.

It is art that will give us the strength to reinvent ourselves and our world. Ben Cobra will heal us, first in Copenhagen, Brussels and today in Amstelveen. And then in Amsterdam and all the world around.

After having glorified the power of emperors and old and new popes, and having promoted their prestige, art has become too subservient to money and the bourgeoisie. Now, at a time when our societies are undergoing revolutionary changes, we are entering a period in which the entire cultural network of conventions is about to lose its meaning and we will be able to win a new freedom from the primary source of life.

For a painting is not a composition of colours and lines, but an animal, a night, a scream, a human being, or all of those combined. And a book is not a composition of letters and sentences, but an animal, a night, a scream, a human being, or all of those combined.

If we have the courage to create, our minds can fly and we can hope without restraint. Ben Cobra is for everyone. Everyone can create, and everyone is invited to be an active creator of the new world we are shaping together.

Ben Cobra is for all of us! It is expressive, spontaneous, urgent, intuitive, inclusive, ground-breaking, creative, free. Creative freedom will heal our world.

So say with me: I Am Cobra I Am Cobra I Am Cobra

Amstelveen, Cobra Museum of Modern Art, 10 September 2020.
Aziz Bekkaoui and Arnon Grunberg

Freely adapted from 'Manifesto' by Constant Nieuwenhuys from 1948
and two lines by Louis Tiessen, from that same year.

COBRA
MUSEUM
VOOR MODERNE
KUNST