

# MANNY A MILLIONFOLD

A ZINE ON  
INTERCONNECTEDNESS,  
LIFE AFTER DEATH, &  
SOLIDARITY  
FROM ATLANTA TO PALESTINE



## 1. Manny & Anarchistic Art-Making

I don't think Manny ever could have imagined how big of an impact their ultimate sacrifice would have on our world. Their martyrdom has created a snowball of change. Vigils were held for them all over the world and their spirit is now a symbol of our movement.



On the morning of January 18th, 2023 my friend Manny aka "Tortuguita" was shot 57 times by a Georgia State Patrol Officer while defending the Weelaunee Forest in Atlanta, GA. Later autopsies showed they were sitting with legs crossed, their hands up in the air, and no gun powder was found on their hands.

With the escalating genocide in Palestine, I've felt new waves of mourning for my friend because of how inextricably linked these issues are. All of October I cried, as the West went on business as usual, the death machine simply doing its job. I suppose the collapse has already begun and it's being normalized and fed to us alongside memes, drugs, bills and cat videos.

Manny and I both frequented The Plant, a DIY space in Tallahassee FL for community members, activists, and artists. Manny's friendly face always lit up the room, and I was immediately attracted to them and their art. Manny was beautiful, bold, and stylish. We're both loud and silly and quickly became comrades. They were also a painter. With fiery force and revolutionary energy, Manny's bold brushstrokes struck the canvas like love and lightning. Manny's art-making embodied freedom in a way that is truly anti-capitalist and anarchistic. Anarchism is about complete freedom and total liberation, from the State and prison/punitive culture. This means abolition of policing, including the cops that live in our heads. I believe this translates to Manny's type of art-making, a creative process without judgement, without conformity, and with a message of liberation and truth. An art-making that doesn't take the Fine Art World or any elitist institution's expectations into consideration; an art-making that is intentionally political and propagandistic.



21 2  
Liked by theplant.tally and others  
meps\_art abolition  
August 14, 2021

(above: Manny's artwork posted to their art Instagram)



I was recently reminded that trying to be perfect is a symptom of the patriarchy and white supremacy and an attempt to erase our faults and our imperfections, which so beautifully make us who we are. Many didn't give a shit about being "polished" or perfect. They were anti-establishment and anti-State control. Their creative process reflected their beliefs at large, and their art will forever inspire me to embody freedom, play, tenacity, truth, and nonjudgment. They once Instagram DM'd me, in reply to my close friends story probably complaining about something art world related, and said,

**"PRETTY PAINTING IS PRETTY ELITISM IS DUMB."**



*Wabi Sabi: The Japanese Art of Impermanence*  
 Taken from the Japanese words wabi, which translates to less is more, and sabi, which means attentive melancholy, wabi-sabi refers to an awareness of the transient nature of earthly things and a corresponding pleasure in the things that bear the mark of this impermanence.



The last time I saw them was at my farewell party in 2021 when I moved away from Tallahassee, FL. From their close friend's story on Instagram, I learned that they faced eviction and then later had been in a car accident. I'm not sure at what point they went to live in the forest, as they would not have advertised that. When I saw friends circulating graphics online with their face and "RIP" attached, I gasped, and swiped out of the app, my mind racing. I didn't believe it, and I was trying to figure out what our friends meant or what kind of joke it was. As the news settled in, I started to panic. I think I repressed Manny's death a lot this year. It's been hard for my brain to comprehend what happened, and the magnitude of it.

## 2. Manny's Words

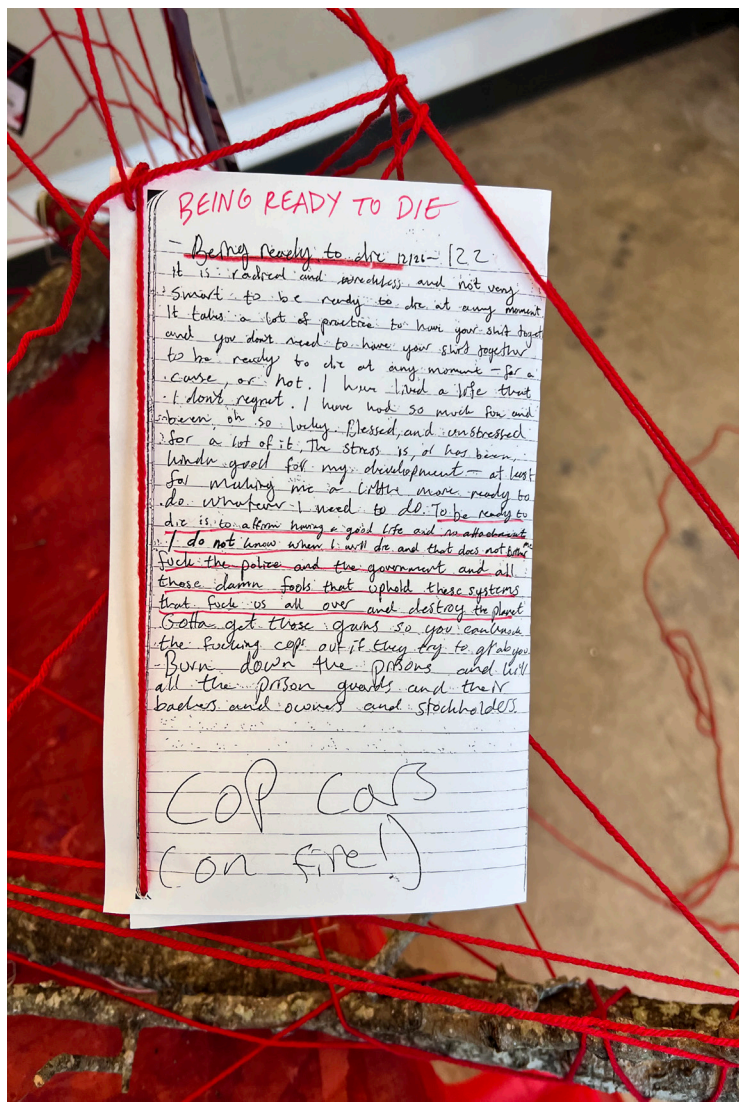
Their diary was stolen from the scene of the murder by the State and is now being used against 61 #StopCopCity activists in court, even though most of the pages date to before Manny was living in the forest. The whole diary was published online, so I downloaded it and am sharing some of my favorite pages with you. I was so moved by how powerful their writing is that I've felt called to share their insights, especially since in other contexts it's being slandered by Fox News and the judicial system that Manny hated so much.

Cops  
- If The Cops kill me 12/18 - 121  
If the cops kill me I want you to riot  
Burn down their stations and set their cars alight  
Know that I went out fighting and wish we all  
could just have peace and be free  
I want nothing but a better world, for the  
environmental crisis ~~must~~ be mitigated. ~~to~~ ~~to~~  
to protect the water, please to free ~~unoppressed~~  
the palestinians of the world - and feed everyone  
We cannot have peace until this empire falls  
Even then, peace takes work and freedom is  
a constant struggle. If the cops kill me I want  
you to riot, to kill as many of them as you can.  
They are terrorists, all they do is keep us sub-  
jugated. They serve and protect capital, not people.  
~~but~~ The cops are evil and do not protect  
people - they are slaves. I think they should all  
quit their jobs or die. I would love to live a  
long and peaceful life but I do not fear violence.  
All their propaganda and bribery and intimidation  
can't save them from moral outrage. I am  
not a violent person but I will not tolerate evil.  
Cops are known to be rapists and domestic abusers  
and even if a cop is not it's still weird to  
want to be a police officer like gross wtf.

Why ACAB 42  
All cops are bastards because they  
enforce unjust laws by choice. Individual  
LEOs may be upstanding and fair people  
at heart, but their compliance with the  
Judicial system makes them bastards.  
By definition, bastardization ~~is~~ means that  
someone or something has made another  
thing impure or corrupt. ACAB because  
they are not meant to protect people,  
they protect property and property owning  
entities. Police officers do not prevent  
crime, they show up afterwards and  
sometimes dole out punishment. Strong  
communities prevent crime. Access to  
opportunities prevents crime. ~~Visible~~ ~~people~~  
People who are connected to their communities  
are less likely to do crime. Prevent crime.  
Simply put, Cops terrorize marginalized  
groups to protect the interests of the  
rich. They only care about property. We  
cannot allow them to subjugate us! The  
System is corrupt.

## Why ACAB by Manuel Esteban Paez Terán

All cops are bastards because they enforce unjust laws by choice. Individual LEOs may be upstanding and fair people at heart, but their compliance with the judicial system makes them bastards. By definition, bastardization means that someone or something has made another thing impure or corrupt. ACAB because they are not meant to protect people, they protect property and property owning entities. Police officers do not prevent crime, they show up afterwards and sometimes dole out punishment. Strong communities prevent crime. Access to opportunities prevents crime. Simply put, cops terrorize marginalized groups to protect the interests of the rich. They only care about property. We cannot allow them to subjugate us! The system is corrupt.



## BEING READY TO DIE

- Being ready to die 12/21 [22]  
 It is radical and wreckless and not very smart to be ready to die at any moment. It takes a lot of practice to have your shit together and you don't need to have your shit together to be ready to die at any moment - for a cause, or not. I have lived a life that I don't regret. I have had so much fun and been oh so lucky. Blessed, and unstressed for a lot of it. The stress is, or has been, kinda good for my development - at least for making me a little more ready to do whatever I need to do. To be ready to die is to affirm having a good life and no attachment. I do not know when I will die and that does not bother me. Fuck the police and the government and all those damn fools that uphold these systems that fuck us all over and destroy the planet. Gotta get these gains so you can knock the fucking cops out if they try to grab you. Burn down the prisons and kill all the prison guards and their backers and owners and stockholders.

COP CARS  
(on fire!)

Being Ready to Die by Manuel Esteban Paez Terán

It is radical and wreckless and not very smart to be ready to die at any moment. It takes a lot of practice to have your shit together and you don't need to have your shit together to be ready to die at any moment - for a cause, or not. I have lived a life that I don't regret. I have had so much fun and been oh so lucky. Blessed, and unstressed for a lot of it. The stress is, or has been, kinda good for my development - at least for making me a little more ready to do whatever I need to do. To be ready to die is to affirm having a good life and no attachment. I do not know when I will die and that does not bother me. Fuck the police and the government and all those damn fools that uphold these systems that fuck us all over and destroy the planet. Gotta get these gains so you can knock the fucking cops out if they try to grab you. Burn down the prisons and kill all the prison guards and their backers and owners and stockholders.

## — Revolution — 5/12/21 51

If you want revolution plant a garden  
 feed your friends and strangers too  
 grow your power to resist  
 before any shots are fired, show love  
 fight fire with water  
 violence is only part of the answer  
 being a revolutionary takes a toll  
 we must pay our tolls so that we can  
 build  
 build a better society for our descendents  
 fight the police and their power  
 chip away at the monolith  
 abolish the prison in your mind  
 kill the cop in your heart  
 remember that you were once a fool  
 teach everyone what you can  
 be gentle in your resistance  
 be tenacious as hell  
 revolt, resist, rebuild  
 renew your faith in a better world  
 be free  
 be loving and humble  
 and chip away at the power they built  
 the first holes to it's foundation will  
 serve as space for high explosives  
 chip ~~and~~ ~~explode~~ away then blow it up  
 we must fight  
 with love and compassion  
 and immortal resolve  
 — peace will come with justice and freedom.

Revolution by Manuel Esteban Paez Terán

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Brainstorm: Being water 37  
- Flexibility, mobility, fluidity,  
Being water is being flexible and fluid  
and persistent. The power comes from soft  
persistence, from being adaptable and  
flowing. Taking the path of least resistance  
is resistance to systems of oppression,  
especially when you concentrate and  
increase volume. Applying more pressure  
allows water to cut stone easily. Large  
bodies of water can reduce a mountain  
to a beach, given time and  
momentum. The ability of water  
to adapt and change gives it power.  
Our bodies are mostly composed of  
water. To be water is to evaporate  
when the heat turns up, water floats.  
Water floats when it freezes, allowing the  
crust to protect the liquid underneath.  
By: preparator of water science!

Water as a person 32  
Stress and pressure affects water  
but it does not change it. Water becomes  
more forceful under pressure, it can  
crush and cut. You don't know  
how water presses down until you  
have been under it, the deeper you  
go the greater the pressure. It  
weighs down with quantity. The  
individual drops of water do not weigh  
much, billions of drops crush shit.  
Water as a person is calm and  
goes with the pressure, it becomes  
stronger but it does not change.  
Water fills its container, it can  
expand and contract. Be a body  
of water, not a molecule. When  
a body of water is

page 37

"Being water - flexibility, mobility, fluidity, being water is being flexible and fluid and persistent. The power comes from soft persistence, from being adaptable and flowing. Taking the path of least resistance is resistance to systems of oppression, especially when you concentrate and increase volume. Applying more pressure allows water to cut stone easily. Large bodies of water can reduce a mountain to a beach, given time and momentum. The ability of water to adapt gives it power. Our bodies are mostly composed of water. To be water is to evaporate when the heat turns up, water floats when it freezes, allowing the crust to protect the liquid underneath."

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"Water Pressure affects water but it does not change it. Water becomes more forceful under pressure, it can crush and cut. You don't know how water presses down until you have been under it, the deeper you go the greater the pressure. It weighs down with quantity. The individual drops of water do not weigh much, billions of drops crush shit. Water as a person is calm and goes with the pressure, it becomes stronger but it does not change. Water fills its container, it can expand and contract. Be a body of water, not a molecule. When a body of water is..."

### 3. BLM, Stop Cop City, Free Palestine

I'd like to now include parts of an article by T. J. Demos  
READ FULL ARTICLE HERE <https://www.e-flux.com/journal/143/590415/counterinsurgent-cop-city-abolition-ecology-and-the-aesthetics-of-counterreform/>



"The grassroots and decentralized movement to stop so-called Cop City formed in response to the state's repression of the 2020 BLM uprisings, sparked in Atlanta by, among myriad injustices, the police killing of Rayshard Brooks. [See also, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor] After police and prison abolitionists demanded both that APD be defunded and the city reallocate municipal resources to much-needed community services and infrastructure, city politicians and corporations—in a now familiar scenario—responded with increased police funding for better "safety." Specifically, on March 31, 2021, Atlanta's mayor announced plans for a \$90 million "top notch" police training facility (with taxpayers bearing up to \$67 million, and the total budget likely much higher). Community Movement Builders, an Atlanta-based African-American collective spearheading the resistance, countered that Cop City's effect would ultimately be the same as always: to "stop mass movements and continue the harassment of Black poor and working class communities."

Defend the Atlanta Forest grassroots movement, whose participants object to Cop City's destruction of a large section of the Weelaunee forest—the Indigenous Mvskoke name, meaning "brown water"—where an area spanning some eighty-five acres, according to city plans, would be replaced with a mock "city" for police to practice urban warfare and tear gas and explosives testing, with dozens of shooting ranges. Atlanta has the highest percentage of tree canopy of any American metropolitan area, helping to mitigate climate change, including urban heating. Forest defenders [including Manny] set up tree-sits and an encampment in late 2021.

...the situation dramatically shifted on January 18, 2023, when the forest encampment was violently raided and the peaceful, nonbinary forest defender Manuel Paez Terán, known as Tortuguita, was gunned down by police—the first time an environmentalist has been killed by police in US history. It turns out police had been briefed prior to their SWAT-style raid that they would be encountering dangerous extremists. Less than two months later, Atlanta police, in cooperation with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, charged twenty-three nonviolent music festival goers associated with the Defend the Atlanta Forest Movement with “domestic terrorism,” as part of an unprecedented criminal indictment under the state’s RICO act, which prosecutes political association as organized crime and threatens enhanced jail time.

While it’s true some activists participating in the Stop Cop City movement have engaged in property destruction—torching construction equipment and damaging police cars—these actions can be defended as minimizing the ongoing violence that corporations are exacting on life and land in the era of climate catastrophe.

[The State continues] weaponizing perception by projecting “terrorism” onto targeted groups—whether in Atlanta, or during the #NoDAPL protests, where water protectors were labeled “jihadist fighters” by Iraq war vets working for TigerSwan private security, or most recently in Israel to rationalize and legitimize genocide against Palestinians. Doing so, counterinsurgency depoliticizes grievance: whatever threatens or challenges the system that organizes society—any revolutionary energy or rebellious disruption—is preemptively converted into criminality, and is thereby delegitimized and exposed to potentially deadly state violence. Counterinsurgency’s aesthetic dimensions thus carry lethal material impacts, as in the case of Tortuguita’s murder.

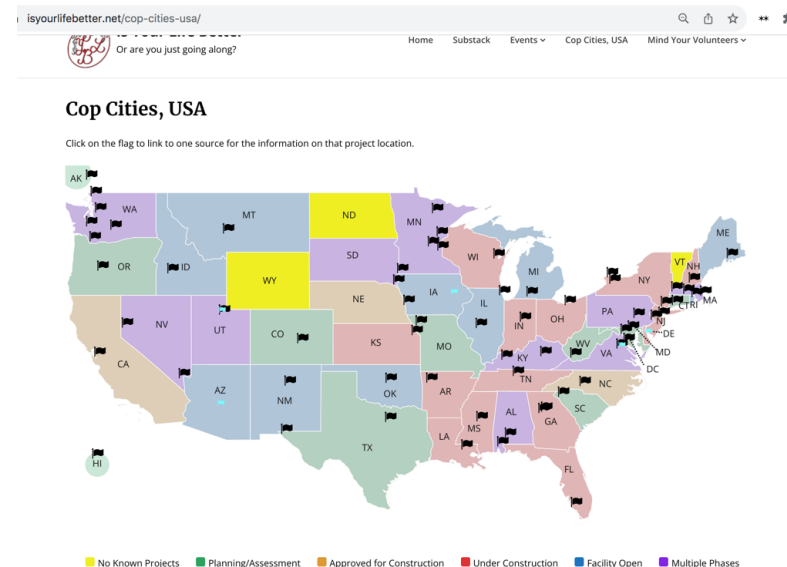
(below: seen in New Orleans, LA)



Motorola Solutions has assisted with Atlanta’s “Operation Shield,” a network of over sixteen thousand surveillance cameras monitored by the police, making Atlanta one of the most surveilled cities in the world. Video data feeds into the Atlanta police’s computer-based Loudermilk Integration Center—named after the family that donated \$1 million to the APF—which also runs Operation Aware, a predictive policing and criminal analytics platform in partnership with Microsoft. Elements of this cloud-connected AI camera network have been “battle tested” in what Anthony Loewenstein calls “the Palestine Laboratory,” where the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) rely on Motorola tech. For more than three decades Georgia police have been trained by the IDF through the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE) for more than three decades, as pointed out by the Black Alliance for Peace, which are rightly concerned about how “the U.S. imposes settler-colonial violence upon African/Black, Indigenous, and Palestinian communities through initiatives like police training with Israeli occupying forces and the urban warfare training facility, Cop City.” All of the above forms an octopus-like network exemplifying the globalization of counterinsurgency within neoliberal markets as a commodified industry of oppression.

...In February 2024, the Georgia Senate passed a bill criminalizing bail funds for protest groups. This follows the arrest, under the RICO charges mentioned above, of three people involved with the Atlanta Solidarity Fund. In addition to marking a harrowing escalation in the state’s repressive tactics, as many observers have pointed out, this will only exacerbate already overcrowded prisons.

That’s the world Cop City represents, and what the opposition is ultimately responding to: an expanded carceral complex to train for future urban conflict, which, as a form of techno-media counterinsurgency backed by militarized force, will preemptively target any threat to the interests of fossil capitalism. And such prehensive futurity is not just happening in Atlanta. Similar training facilities are planned or have already been built all over the US, including Chicago’s Joint Public Safety Training Campus (costing \$170 million) and new police training centers in New Jersey (\$120 million), Las Vegas (\$35 million), San Pablo, California (\$44 million), and elsewhere.



#### 4. RESOURCES & MORE INFO

##### Atlanta

Stop Cop City @stopcopcity  
Defend Atlanta Forest @defendatlantaforest  
<https://isyourlifebetter.net/cop-cities-usa/>

Write to Jack, who was arrested in relation to Stop Cop City  
Statement:

Cobb County Sheriff's Office, Georgia  
John Mazurek 7701109335  
PO BOX 247  
Phoenix, MD 21131  
out on bond\*\*\*

blue or black ink only, postcards standard issue unaltered, do not disclose nature of case, include a return address w a first and last name or organization. @durhamprisonletter

##### Palestine

IMEU @theimeu  
Eyes on Palestine @eye.on.palestine  
Al Jazeera @aljazeeraenglish  
Journalist Steven Donziger @stevendonziger  
(read Wiki page about him)  
Journalist Bisan Owda @wizard\_bisan1

##### Books:

The Hundred Years' War on Palestine  
by Rashid Khalidi  
Freedom is a Constant Struggle: Ferguson, Palestine, and the Foundations of a Movement  
by Angela Davis

"You have to act as if it were possible to radically transform the world. And you have to do it all the time."

~ Angela Davis

The US plays an oversized role in military carbon emissions—and supplies

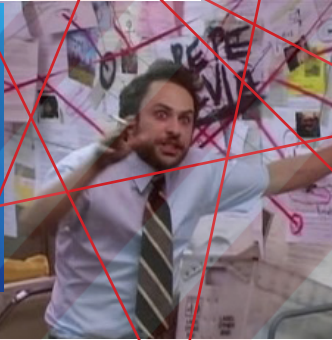
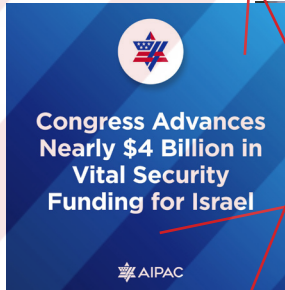
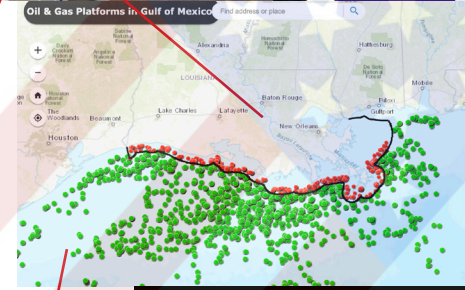
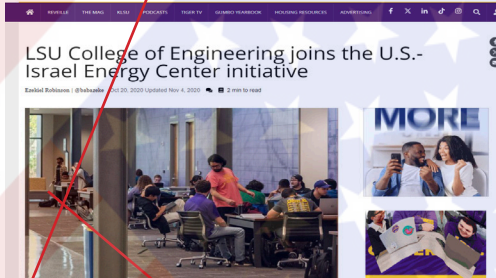
Israel with billions of dollars of military aid, weapons and other equipment that it deploys in Gaza and the West Bank.

### COP CITY AND ISRAEL'S GENOCIDE IN PALESTINE GO HAND IN HAND.

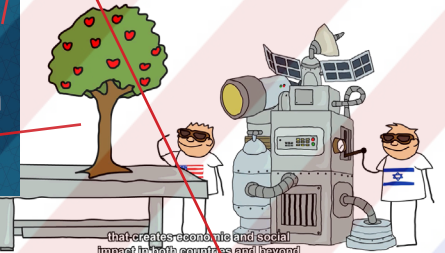
The Atlanta Police Department (APD) maintains close ties with Israel's Defense Forces (IDF) through the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange program (GILEE). For more than three decades, GILEE has facilitated the exchange of militarized policing tactics with Atlanta police travel to Israel for training sessions and, reciprocally, Israeli officers travel to Atlanta. In fact, the APD had planned to travel to Israel at the beginning of October. Later that month, the APD simulated a situation with a 'Hamas terrorist' in an abandoned building for training. Cop City is proposed as a 'state of the art' space for police across the US and beyond borders to play out these violent and racialized simulations—simulations inspired by Israel's genocide in Palestine.



@defendatlantaforest



In 1999, British Gas (BG) discovered the existence of natural gas in the Gaza Marine fields, 20 nautical miles off the coast of Gaza, at a depth of 610 meters below the surface. Further exploration by BG through two successful wells — Gaza Marine 1 and Gaza Marine 2 — determined the field could contain up to 1 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.



that creates economic and social impact in both countries and beyond

**Armed conflict pushes humanity even closer to the precipice of climate catastrophe, and is an idiotic way to spend our shrinking carbon budget."**

BIRD Foundation



