

The Grafted Tree - Co-created by Nikky Manfredi and Pillar staff

Grafting is a horticultural technique whereby tissues of different plants are joined so as to continue their growth together.

Pillar is a grafted tree.

One plant is selected for its roots, for its deep foundation.

Others for their flowers or fruits, for their sweet innovation.

To graft is to sustain.

To graft is to exchange.

What could be wrong with grafting the tree?

We must remember that in order to fuse new joints, you must first cut away at the original branches.

What extends one branch could cut short another.

One limb may Breakthrough while another is cut back.

Is the graft a healing bind, a connection?

Is the graft a superficial fix, an appropriation?

To graft is to exchange.

To graft is to sustain.

So why does it feel like the growth of the fruits has shrunk the roots?

Swollen, ripe... the fruit has sucked up water from the roots, from the branches, the stems, the leaves.

Can the tree sustain its own weight?

Is the fruit...seasonal?

To graft is to cut back.

To graft is to transplant.

New limbs to grow four stories taller.

New lungs to breathe freer.

What could be wrong with breathing new life into a growing body?

We must remember the surgery, the removal, the rhythmic override.

Pillar is a transplant organ

Pillar is a transplant organization.

Are we at risk of transplanting the heart of this organization?

Four stories high and each new Shift in the wind feels like a threat to precarious fusions.

We all know money doesn't grow on nonprofit trees.

So we keep saying the tree should Shift to the Middle ground, seek fertility
Without realizing that might require an entire **upheaval**.

Pillar is a grafted tree.

The roots have been here all along, plunged deep into the soil.

Rain, sun, moon... the roots remain - unconditional.

Twisted, coiled fingers sunk deep into the earth.

Rooted hands clenched, arched, extending into solid ground - grounded solidarity.

This is not a call to arms, not a call to limbs that grow ever taller

This is a call to hands.

Dark soil under each fingernail.

Calluses on each palm

We have always had a history

of getting our hands dirty.

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To graft is to co-create, collaborate and continue our growth - together.