“no longer have patience ... observe behaviour, both in history and in individual biography, that has hitherto been invisible or misnamed; behaviour which often constitutes, given the limits of the counterforce exerted in a given time and place, radical rebellion ... connect these rebellions and the necessity for them with the physical passion of woman for woman which is central to lesbian existence: the erotic sensuality which has been, precisely, the most violently erased fact of female experience.”

desire(s)

Scratch away the surface of an image. Make your presence known. That’s your body, Martha, and your lover’s. “See those bodies touching.” Women’s bodies. In my neighbourhood, by the Annette Public Library, on the street at the Junction. Not in private, where we belong, others say. (That was Trudeau’s liberal attitude.) Times have changed. Can women display such desire? All their surfaces touch, keep touching. What do lesbians risk, rubbing against each other in public, practising perverse desire? Enchant me. Dare to envelop each other by the railway tracks at the Junction. Join in. Legs overlapping, entwined where everyone can see. In this city. Disruptive gestures. Not without consequence, others say. You dykes allure me. Such agency. Desire so defiant.

practise

This bookwork is part of a larger project entitled Alluring My Eye/I, which explores the interaction of desire and critical response in the process of constructing meaning(s) from my position as a queer interdisciplinary lesbian.
We kiss, and I know it is right. We kiss, eyes open, in the sight of the righteousness of others.

fearful kiss

One of four posters for Local/motive by Martha Judge, 1992.
have patience no longer

and know it is right. We kiss, eyes open, all of the righteousness of others.

kiss fearlessly

On site documentation of repeated vandalism of poster installation; photograph by Martha Judge.