



ORIGIN OF THE RAINBOW FLAG

as described by Gilbert Baker (1951-2017), artist, political activist and rainbow pride flag-maker

“At the Winterland Ballroom we always danced with our arms raised up over our heads, snapping our fingers like Diana Ross. We’d shake our hips like Tina Turner, acid cheerleaders twirling in psychedelic funkadelic circles.

Everyone was there: North Beach beatniks and barrio zoots, the bored bikers in black leather, teenagers in the back row kissing. There were long-haired, lithe girls in belly-dance get-ups, pink-haired punks safety-pinned together, hippie suburbanites, movie stars so beautiful they left you dumbstruck, muscle gayboys with perfect mustaches, butch dykes in blue jeans, and fairies of all genders in thrift-store dresses. Dance fused us, magical and cleansing. We were all in a swirl of color and light.

It was like a rainbow.

That’s the moment when I knew exactly what kind of flag I would make.”