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Contact: Lia Gangitano lia@participantinc.org 646.492.4076



GORDON KURTTI PROJECT

June 2 - July 14, 2013
Opening Reception, Sunday, June 2, 7-9pm

From June 2 - July 14, 2013, PARTICIPANT INC is proud to present the *Gordon Kurtti Project*, curated by **Carl George** of **Allied Productions**. **Gordon Stokes Kurtti** produced a brief yet concentrated burst of artistic output in the early '80s before his life was cut short by HIV/AIDS, a disease that claimed so many of his peers. This exhibition is the first to collect his drawings and paintings, as well as his work in film, performance, and poetry, tracing Kurtti's lasting impact on the East Village art scene.

A vital and collaborative persona who drifted from nightclubs to film sets, Kurtti sketched his social milieu with an extraordinarily sure hand. Included in the exhibition are fine-line drawings and caricature collages of peers and performers like Hapi Phace, Lypsinka, Lady Bunny, Kimberly Flynn, and Tabboo! (Stephen Tashjian). Remarkable, too, was his ability to render the defining details of a character, especially in his humorous and outrageously pointed caricatures of celebrities like Sam Shepard, Stevie Wonder, Chaka Khan, Katherine Hepburn, Elizabeth Taylor, Annie Lennox and Prince, among others.

Gordon Stokes Kurtti (May 4, 1960 - April 18, 1987) was an American artist, writer, illustrator, and performer. He died of AIDS related illnesses at the age of 26. A prominent fixture in the early East Village art scene of New York City, he is perhaps best known for his caricatures of celebrities and Dickensian portrayals of ragamuffin children and New Yorkers of every ilk. Kurtti was a member of Allied Productions, a not-for-profit arts organization based in New York City, and collaborated on many performances, films, and art education workshops. He exhibited at ABC No Rio, Armageddon, The Pyramid Club, 8BC, and Life Café. Kurtti's prolific output, traversing visual art, literature, performance, fashion and cinema, along with his activity within the nightclub milieu of the downtown NY scene of the '80s, is evocative of the period before AIDS decimated a generation, which, as writer Sarah Schulman has noted, "changed the course of world culture forever."

PARTICIPANT INC
253 East Houston Street NY NY 10002

Gordon Kurttti Project events

One Night Stands

Wednesdays, June 5 - July 10, 7pm at Participant Inc

A performance series recalling the mid-80s zeitgeist with celebrated writers and performance artists.

June 5: Q. Sakamaki, Kembra Pfahler, Joe Westmoreland, Eileen Myles

June 12: P.O.O.L. presents *The Jack and Peter Show* starring Jack Waters, Peter Cramer, and Justin Sayre with special guests Carlo Maria Ampil, Connor Donahue, Ariana Huffenstuff, Jim Hubbard, Ryan E. Roger, and Sarah Schulman

June 19: Hapi Phace & Agosto Machado, Edgar Oliver, Marga Gomez

June 26: Kimberly Flynn, John "Lypsinka" Epperson, Penny Arcade

July 3: Samoa, Carmelita Tropicana, Karen Finley

July 10: Linda Simpson, John Kelly

Naked Eye Cinema

Friday, June 28 7:30pm at Anthology Film Archives, 32 Second Avenue, NYC

An evening of experimental film curated by Jack Waters featuring Kurttti as an actor or set and costume designer, including *La Belle Fleur* (1985) and *The Lost 40 Days* (1986) by Carl George; *Penny Candy* (1985) by Peter Cramer; *Brains By Revlon* (1986) by Jack Waters; and *Hystery* (1985) by Bradley Eros and Aline Mare of Erotic Psyche.

Dirty Looks + Visual AIDS

Thursday June 20, 7pm at Participant Inc

A screening and panel discussion on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Visual AIDS, celebrating the downtown scene of the 1980s and early '90s, featuring rarely seen films by Carl George and David Wojnarowicz. The panel includes Jack Waters, Rayya Elias, and C. Carr, moderated by Esther Kaplan, Editor in Chief of The Investigative Fund / The Nation Institute.

<http://gordonkurttiproject.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/gordonkurttiproject>

<http://www.visualaids.org/>

<http://alliedproductions.org/>

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PARTICIPANT INC is located at 253 East Houston Street, between Norfolk and Suffolk Streets on the LES. Subway: F to Second Avenue, Allen Street exit or JMZ to Essex/Delancey. participantinc.org