

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
2005

November 2,

Contact: Lia Gangitano, 212 254 4334



Throughout November, PARTICIPANT INC becomes the stage for a series of durational actions and several evenings of live film, video, and performance including Derrick Adams, Ron Athey and Juliana Snapper (a *SCOUT* literary performance curated by Eileen Myles), Charles Atlas and Chris Peck, Vaginal Davis, Lovett/Codagnone, My Barbarian, Luther Price and Katharine Finneran (in conjunction with the Roberta Beck Memorial Cinema), Rafael Sánchez, Julie Tolentino, and Suara Welitoff and Thalia Zedek. The programming of PARTICIPANT INC, a storefront alternative space on the Lower East Side, is greatly influenced by its urban history and context, and continues to integrate vibrant legacies of underground theater, drag aesthetics, club performance, live film, video, and music into its exhibition platform. For **PERFORMA 05**, PARTICIPANT INC has invited participating artists to create new works, ranging from performing objects to durational and theatrical performances. These artists share an interest in sub-cultural genres that expand assumed limits of exhibition and performance formats.

Following the Breyer P-Orridge exhibition, *CHANGE THEE WAY TO PERCEIVE AND CHANGE ALL MEMORY*, a project inherently involved with physical and mental transformation, PARTICIPANT INC's **PERFORMA 05** series ventures into an aggressive and theatrical mode of self-exploration. *CHANGE THEE WAY TO PERCEIVE AND CHANGE ALL MEMORY* is on view through November 13, 2005 (Gallery Hours: Wednesday-Sunday, noon-7pm, Admission free).

Sunday, November 6, 2005, 8pm (Admission \$5)

COUM Transmissions

*MUSIC FOR STOCKING TOP AND STARE CASE*, 1974

*COUMDENSATION MUCUS*, 1975

US video premiere

Assumed lost until recently discovered in the archives of Genesis P-Orridge and preserved via digital copying, these mid-70s videos of COUM Transmissions actions have never before been screened in the USA. They are kindly loaned by the Breyer P-Orridge Archives and Thee Gates Institute.

Tuesday, November 15, 8pm (Admission \$5)

Luther Price and Katharine Finneran

*Project Cotton Candy*

Organized in conjunction with The Roberta Beck Memorial Cinema

Price and Finneran stage a live film installation incorporating 16mm and Super 8 films, multiple slide and video projections, text, lightboxes, paintings, drawings, and objects to examine the parasitic corruption of the American home.

Wednesday, November 16, 8pm (Admission free)

Lovett/Codagnone

*EACH MAN KILLS THE THING HE LOVES*

Lovett/Codagnone continue their ongoing exploration of relations of power in *EACH MAN KILLS THE THING HE LOVES*, a durational performance/installation. The light from a pair of intertwined neon nooses illuminates the room, with a gallows placed below. During the hour-long performance, the artists sit back to back, a double leather hood binding them. The sound of a continuous drum roll

builds, layered with the recorded voices of the artists reading from “The Ballad of Reading Gaol,” a poem Oscar Wilde wrote soon after he was released from jail.

Wednesday, November 16, 10pm (Admission \$5)

Rafael Sánchez

*The Three Voices (part one)*

Sánchez performs Act 1 of his new solo work, *The Three Voices*. Titled after a poem by Lewis Carroll, Sánchez refers to *The Three Voices* as “a study in gravity and its absence imagined by Centaur at the fountain of Salmacis.”

Derrick Adams

*ANEW: The Transformative Nature of a Thing*

Adam’s stages an interpretive dance performance—a rehearsal for a television commercial promoting a new fluid substance. He crafts an animated world populated by pseudo-educational characters, scripting performative identities through costumes and environments that are frequently reversed (interior/exterior, front/back), manifesting the two-sided nature of seemingly neutral objects.

Thursday, November 17, 7pm through Friday, November 18, 7pm (Admission \$10)

Julie Tolentino

*A True Story About Two People*

Tolentino stages a new one-on-one 24-hour performance/installation, *A True Story About Two People*. An ordinary type of dance occurs within the confines of a small room constructed of one-way mirrors. Viewers can see inside, and are encouraged to participate by entering the space to join the blindfolded artist for a dance, the duration of which is as long as they wish. Classic slow dance songs continuously play, and a digital projector displays the time on the wall. The artist slow-dances alone or accompanied by a solitary viewer for 24 continuous hours.

Thursday, November 17, 8pm (Admission \$5)

*SCOUT: Ron Athey and Juliana Snapper*

Using vocal material developed for their opera, *The Judas Cradle*, Athey and Snapper give a special performative gallery recital “teasing the space between sickness and sparkle.”

*SCOUT* is an ongoing literary and performance event series curated by writer Eileen Myles.

Thursday, November 17, 10pm (Admission \$10)

Rafael Sánchez

*The Three Voices (part two)*

Sánchez performs Act 2 of his new solo work, *The Three Voices*.

Charles Atlas and Chris Peck

*The Intensity Police are Working My Last Gay Nerve*

Charles Atlas stages a performance of live video mixing in collaboration with sound artist Chris Peck.

Friday, November 18, 8pm (Admission \$10)

Charles Atlas and Chris Peck

*The Intensity Police are Working My Last Gay Nerve*

Charles Atlas stages a second performance of live video mixing in collaboration with sound artist Chris Peck.

(Friday, November 18, 8pm, continued)

Suara Welitoff and Thalia Zedek

*A Million Sunsets*

Welitoff and Zedek reunite for an original performance at PARTICIPANT INC. Departing from their prior collaboration at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston in February 2005—in which Welitoff's ambient films served to complement Zedek's music—the two approach a reverse scenario, as Zedek creates a live soundtrack to accompany Welitoff's video.

Friday, November 18, 10pm (Admission \$10)

Rafael Sánchez

*The Three Voices (part three)*

Sánchez performs Act 3 of his new solo work, *The Three Voices*.

My Barbarian

*YOU WERE BORN POOR AND POOR YOU WILL DIE, an inhuman sacrifice*

Performance, music, and sculpture converge in My Barbarian's *YOU WERE BORN POOR AND POOR YOU WILL DIE*, a ritualistic incantation of class warfare. Designed in collaboration with artist Jeff Ono, My Barbarian dons papier-maché phalluses made of dollar bills and plays percussion crafted out of loose change in chants and folk dances that draw from mummery, satyr plays, and pow-wows. As high priests of Moloch, the ensemble conjures an Ancient World religion of human sacrifice that mirrors the societal bloodletting of late-Capitalism. And then they rock.

Saturday, November 19, 7pm (Admission free)

Vaginal Davis

*VD as VB black and white women and men together again forever*

Vaginal Davis, the grande doyenne of drag and outsider art is fed up with the preposterous, grotesque and crass nature of popular culture and the western media in general. As a sensitive artiste it is becoming increasingly toxic to exist in this gauche and idolatrous environment. She's doing the only sensible thing—opting out. Come and see one of her last performance pieces, *VD as VB black and white women and men together again forever*, where men and women of varying body types and dimensions stand motionless as living sculpture. VD as VB delivers text, photographers and videographers are invited to document, the public is allowed to view, and, if they ask nicely, even touch...

These programs are presented for **PERFORMA 05**—the first biennial of new visual art performance in New York City. More than 20 venues throughout New York will present a multidisciplinary program of live performance, film screenings, lectures, and exhibitions from November 3 through 21, 2005. Ten major new works will be premiered and more than 60 artists will participate in the three-week contemporary art program. **PERFORMA 05** is organized by **PERFORMA**, a nonprofit arts organization committed to the research, development, and presentation of performance by visual artists. For more information, please visit [www.performa-arts.org](http://www.performa-arts.org).

PARTICIPANT INC is located at 95 Rivington Street, between Ludlow and Orchard Streets on the Lower East Side.

PARTICIPANT INC's exhibitions are made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency. PARTICIPANT INC has received generous support from the Harriett Ames Charitable Trust, Bloomberg, The MAT Charitable Foundation, Peter Norton Family Foundation, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and numerous individuals.