Marja Samsom, Miss Taken Identities
Live-stream Performance
Fri, July 30, 5pm EST
on participantaftedark.art
ASL interpretation by Candace Davider

Join us on participantaftedark.art for a live-stream performance in anticipation of Marja Samsom’s second publication, Miss Taken Identities. Miss Taken Identities features new vignette performances that highlight techniques and interests that Samsom revisits throughout her career, and as chronicled in her forthcoming book.

Following the live-stream, we’ll gather for an outdoor reception from 6:30-8pm at The Dorothy Strelsin Memorial Community Garden at 174 Suffolk Street.

A companion to Samsom’s Diary of a Forgotten Actress, 1972-1979, a publication curated by Inez & Vinoodh in 2015, we celebrate the next chapter with a performance activating a scripted environment including props, sets, and films with Miss Taken Identities. Samsom began casting herself as Miss Behave and Miss Kerr in her performance-based photographs and films in the early ‘70s, producing Super 8 films inspired by illusionist and filmmaker George Melies. Pin-up, housewife, diva – a repertoire of self-objectification provided directorial authority. The ‘Forgotten Actress’ deployed Polaroids/snapshots served as evidence of a living artform – a life performance, inspired by the art and friendship of Bas Jan Ader.
Marja Samsom lives and works in New York City. In the ‘70s, Samsom exhibited her work in various venues in Los Angeles, New York, Amsterdam and elsewhere in Europe. In 1976, she performed the piece Miss Kerr in Amsterdam at de Appel Arts Centre. In 1980, she traveled to New York for Dutch Treat, an exchange that Wies Smals set up with Martha Wilson from Franklin Furnace. Samsom designed the poster, and performed at Franklin Furnace. She decided to stay in New York, and subsequently opened The Kitchen Club and Chibi’s Bar from 1990-2010. In the fall of 2011, she started her residency at The Clocktower, culminating in the storytelling performance/installation Shrine. In 2016, Samsom celebrated her artist’s book, Diary of a Forgotten Actress 1972-1979, curated by Inez & Vinoodh with Miss Behave a set of performances activating a scripted environment including props, set, photographs, and films at Participant Inc. Recent solo project presented online and in New York LMAK Gallery, La Galleria at La Mama, and Club Berlin.

Live Performance and videos by: Marja Samsom
Livestream/Video Director: Glen Fogel
Production Manager: Lia Gangitano, Jordan Strafer
Camera Operators: Isaiah Davis, John Brattin
Audio & Video Engineer: Sean Leo, Collin Leitch
Production Assistants: Jennie West, Hjordis Linn Blanford, Tony Powe, Caroline Mills, and Alexander Fleming

Special thanks to Scott Gibson and The Dorothy Strelsin Memorial Community Garden.

PARTICIPANT AFTER DARK is a virtual performance, screening, and exhibition space launched by PARTICIPANT INC in 2020. PARTICIPANT invited artist Glen Fogel to design and develop AFTER DARK, working with artists to inhabit the site and modify it for their projects' specific needs.

Image: Marja Samsom, Miss Taken Identities, 2021. page from artist’s book [A black and white photograph of an Olympia typewriter holding a piece of paper with the words DARLIN, HOW ARE YOU?, WE MISS YOU, TERRIBLY MUCH, PLEASE CALL ME, BISOUS, MISS KERR aligned to the left. A metallic gloved hand advances the paper through the typewriter].

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