



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

Join us on participantafterdark.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.

PARTICIPANT INC

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 projects 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].

**LAMBENT
FOUNDATION**

The Andy Warhol
Foundation
for the Visual Arts

RF
**SHELLEY & DONALD RUBIN
FOUNDATION**

 **JEROME
FOUNDATION**



**Council on
the Arts**

**NYC Cultural
Affairs**



**National
Endowment
for the Arts**
arts.gov

PARTICIPANT INC's exhibitions are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

Our programs are supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

Archiving and documentation projects are supported by the National Endowment for the Arts.

PARTICIPANT INC is supported in part by an Artists Council Grant of the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation.

Online projects are made possible with funds from the NYSCA Electronic Media/Film in Partnership with Wave Farm: Media Arts Assistance Fund, with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

PARTICIPANT INC receives generous support from the Harriett Ames Charitable Trust; Artists' Legacy Foundation; Michael Asher Foundation; Willem de Kooning Foundation; The Greenwich Collection Ltd.; Agnes Gund Foundation; Marta Heflin Foundation; The Ruth Ivor Foundation; The Meredith E. James Charitable Fund; Jerome Foundation; Lambent Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation; Henry Luce Foundation; The MAP Fund; NADA Gallery Relief Grant; Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation; Andrea Stern Charitable Fund; Still Point Fund; Teiger Foundation; The Jacques Louis Vidal Charitable Fund; The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; **FRIENDS of PARTICIPANT INC**; numerous individuals; and Materials for the Arts, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs/NYC Department of Sanitation/NYC Dept. of Education.