



Conrad Ventur  
*Tribute to Mario Montez*  
Sundays, November 10, 17, 24, 7pm

Sunday, November 10

Jose Rodriguez-Soltero, *Lupe*, 1966, 16mm, 49.5 minutes  
Jack Smith, *Jungle Island*, 1967, 16mm, 15 minutes  
Andy Warhol, *Mario Banana*, 1964, 16mm, 4 minutes  
Conrad Ventur, *Boca Chica*, 2013, video, NY premiere, 3 minutes

Sunday, November 17

Jack Smith, *Flaming Creatures*, 1962-3, 16mm, 43 minutes  
Ron Rice, *Chumlum*, 1964, 16mm, 23 minutes  
Avery Willard, *remnant: Flaming 20s*, 1968, 16mm on video, 1 minute

Sunday, November 24

Andy Warhol, *Hedy*, 1966, 16mm, 66 minutes  
Takahiko Iimura, *Face*, 1969, 16mm, 20.5 minutes  
Conrad Ventur, *Atlantis*, 2011, video, 2 minutes

Legendary underground actor **Mario Montez** was a favorite subject of artists Jack Smith and Andy Warhol, and was a founding member of the Ridiculous Theatrical Company with Charles Ludlam in the 1960s. While researching Warhol's early films, New York City-based artist **Conrad Ventur** learned that reclusive Montez had begun to emerge from retirement after 35 years. They began a friendship through Ventur's re-staging of Warhol's 'screen tests' using the same methods and Factory stars, including Montez. They continued their collaboration for three years, Ventur noting that, "I began to think about people, not just the media in which they were recorded years ago." Ventur has since produced a series of digital c-prints, videos, and live performances with Montez, which were to culminate in *Mario Montez Returns*.

Montez was to star in this six-week performance environment staged at PARTICIPANT INC for PERFORMA13. The multi-media project, written and directed by Ventur for Montez, would have reunited actors from the original Ridiculous Theatrical Company and the renowned downtown theater La Mama alongside subsequent generations of performers including Agosto Machado, Everett Quinton, Lola Pashalinski, Marti Domination, Mr. Twinkle, and Brandon Olson. Mario Montez died on September 26, 2013.

To celebrate Montez's contribution to underground cinema, Ventur has organized *Tribute to Mario Montez* featuring films that were among Montez's favorites of the myriad in which he starred by Jose Rodriguez-Soltero, Jack Smith, Andy Warhol, Ron Rice, Avery Willard and Takahiko Iimura.

Working within the media of photography and video for the last ten years, and more recently installation, **Conrad Ventur** is interested in activating moving image archives, whether finding material online or looking at specific underground film archives and repositioning them in exhibition formats. He often brings together pioneers of living theater with a younger generation of performers in live and recorded environments. Born in Seattle, raised in New Haven, and living in New York since 2000, Ventur has chronicled his New York life with photography and the publication *USELESS* for over a decade. His single-channel and multi-channel video installations have been shown internationally. Ventur recently exhibited at The Andy Warhol Museum; Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College; MoMA PS1; Moscow International Biennial III, and Kunsthalle Winterthur, Switzerland. Recent solo screenings include *The High Museum of Art*, *The Museum of Modern Art*, New York, and *C/O*, Berlin. In 2012, Ventur's *13 Most Beautiful/Screen Tests Revisited* (2009-2011) were acquired by The Whitney Museum of American Art.

**ART UNTITLED. Miami Beach, December 4 - 8, 2013**

PARTICIPANT INC presents photographs from Conrad Ventur's ongoing work with Mario Montez. Together they made over thirty photographs with reference to various dime-store divas, screen legends, and Montez's roles in experimental theater and the underground films of the '60s. Shot in Berlin, Key West, New York and Orlando, a selection of prints from the portfolio will form the core of the presentation. Ventur's *Boca Chica*, starring Montez, will also be on view at the Inaugural FLATT prize for Experimental Short Film booth at UNTITLED.



 **PERFORMA 13**

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Performa 13, the only biennial dedicated to new visual art performance, will transform New York City into an international platform celebrating live art November 1-24, 2013. More information at [performa-arts.org](http://performa-arts.org)

Common Practice New York is a recently formed advocacy group that fosters research and discussions on the role of small-scale arts institutions in New York City. The founding members of Common Practice New York are Artists Space, The Kitchen, Light Industry, Participant Inc, Printed Matter, Triple Canopy, and White Columns. Common Practice New York aims to collectively embody the question, *What is our common practice and why do we value it?* Learn more about Common Practice New York and join our mailing list at <http://commonpracticenyc.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](http://participantinc.org)

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