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Flowers in the Basement, *Women and Children*

January 21 - February 4, 2024

Live Performance, Sunday January 21, 7pm

r.s.v.p. required, seating is limited: [lia@participantinc.org](mailto:lia@participantinc.org)

Structured like a variety show in entropy, *Women and Children* is a multidisciplinary performance piece by *Flowers in the Basement*. The in-process showing is a culmination of two years of their meetings, conversations, workshops and residencies. An installation of work within the performance will remain in the gallery through February 4th.

*Flowers in the Basement* is a collective consisting of Kite, Mel Elberg, Tsedaye Makonnen, Alisha B. Wormsley, Frank Rodriguez and Amy Ruhl, formed to both create a new original performance piece, and to speculate on radical alternatives to our current forms of reproductive labor. Using the “demon text” of second-wave feminism, *The Dialectic of Sex: The Case for Feminist Revolution* (Shulamith Firestone, 1970), as a jumping off point, the project offers a contemporary, polyvocal response to revolutionary demands for gender abolition, artificial reproduction, child liberation, and cybernetic communism. Bringing together a group of core collaborators working in vast fields of inquiry – Afrofuturism; queer, speculative, intersectional, and Marxist feminisms, Lakota epistemologies; and African migration narratives – their mode of collaboration forges collectivity while respecting the autonomy of each artists’ individual praxis.

**PARTICIPANT INC**  
116 Elizabeth Street, Floor one, NY NY 10013

*Women and Children* was first developed through a Research and Development Commission from Fisher Center LAB, which receives funding from the Fisher Center at Bard's Artistic Innovation Fund with lead support from Rebecca Gold and S. Asher Gelman through the March Forth Foundation. [fishercenter.bard.edu](http://fishercenter.bard.edu)

*Women and Children* was made possible, in part, by the Franklin Furnace FUND 2023-24, supported by Jerome Foundation, the Board of Directors, members and friends of Franklin Furnace Archive.

### *Live Performance*

Direction and concept by Amy Ruhl

Videos and performances by Mel Elberg, Kite, Tsedaye Makonnen, Amy Ruhl and Alisha B. Wormsley

Technical Director: Lazar Bozic

Sound: Adam Wolcott Smith

Stage Manager: Abby Noble

### *Installation*

Fabrication: Matthew Grandin and Andrea Solstad

Technical crew: John Brattin, Cate Jordano, Harry Kleeman, Collin Leitch, and Caroline Mills

Camera: Itziar Barrio, John Brattin, and Marit Liang

Image: From left to right: Kite (Suzanne Kite), Alisha B. Wormsley, Mel Elberg, Amy Ruhl, Tsedaye Makonnen

PARTICIPANT INC is located at 116 Elizabeth Street, floor one, in Chinatown, between Broome and Grand Streets. The closest trains are the J/Z (Bowery) and the B/D (Grand); the closest wheelchair accessible stop is the 6 (Canal). Entry is on grade and the gallery is barrier free throughout with an all gender, wheelchair accessible bathroom. Service animals are welcome.

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

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**TEIGER FOUNDATION** The Willem de Kooning Foundation

