



Michelle Handelman, *DOOMSCROLLING*

MICHELLE HANDELMAN X SHANNON FUNCHESS

Sunday, October 17, at 8pm EST - October 24, 2021 on participantafterdark.art

Presented in collaboration with The Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA)

Concept, videos, and live performance by: Michelle Handelman

Live performance: Shannon Funchess

Livestream video directed and edited by: Glen Fogel and Michelle Handelman

Live Audio & video engineers: Lazar Bozic (NYC) and Chris Balo (Portland)

Post-production sound mix: Quentin Chiappetta (Medianoise)

Animation: Enrique Maitland

ASL interpretation: Candace Davider

Including excerpts from:

Hustlers & Empires (2018/20)

Irma Vep, the Last Breath (2013/15)

Dorian, a Cinematic Perfume (2009/13)

Cinematography by: Ed David

Performers: Quin Charity, Zackary Drucker, Shannon Funchess, K8 Hardy, Armen Ra, Viva Ruiz, Flawless Sabrina, Sequinette

Composers: Vincent Baker, Quentin Chiappetta, John Kelly, Jonathan Kreinik, Carol Lipnik, Stefan Tcherepnin

Costumes: Neon Music, Garo Sparo, Karen Young, Zaldy

Hair/Makeup: Michael Gwaltney, Armen Ra, Naomi Raddatz, Sequinette

PARTICIPANT AFTER DARK and PICA present the video premiere of *DOOMSCROLLING*, a collaborative reading and performance by Michelle Handelman and musician/performer Shannon Funchess, co-founder of the band Light Asylum. Originally performed for livestream on Participant After Dark on May 21, 2021 and recorded at Michelle Handelman Studio (NYC) and PICA (Portland).

DOOMSCROLLING is part of Handelman's *THE PANDEMIC SERIES* (2020-2021), which re-contextualizes characters from Handelman's previous works into a hypnotic visual essay about the transfiguring of interiority during periods of isolation and fear. It takes as its starting point the current coronavirus pandemic and filters it through theorist Jill Casid's writings on the necrocene, which Casid has described as living and dying on a dying planet; and Walter Benjamin's writings on the difference between thresholds and boundaries. Handelman's characters, who each have already struggled with existential questions of belonging and fear in her projects *DORIAN, A CINEMATIC PERFUME* (2009/11), *IRMA VEP, THE LAST BREATH* (2013/15), and *HUSTLERS & EMPIRES* (2018) are juxtaposed with found images and texts sourced during the pandemic to take on a new form that both denies and struggles with containment.

Coming up through the years of the AIDS crisis and Culture Wars of the 1990s, **Michelle Handelman** has built a body of work that uses live performance and moving images to confront the things we collectively fear and deny—sexuality, death, chaos. Handelman is a John Simon Guggenheim Fellow (2011) and Creative Capital awardee (2019). Her latest project *Hustlers & Empires* was commissioned by SFMOMA as part of their Performance in Practice series. She has exhibited at Broad Art Museum, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, MIT List Visual Arts Center, PARTICIPANT, INC, PERFORMA Biennial, Guangzhou 53 Art Museum, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, Leslie-Lohman Museum of Art, and the Film Society of Lincoln Center among others. During the 1990s Handelman worked in San Francisco where she collaborated with Monte Cazazza, a pioneer of the Industrial music scene and performed in several films by Lynn Hershman-Leeson. Handelman's writings can be found in *QED: A Journal in LGBTQ Worldmaking*, *n.Paradoxa*, *Intl Feminist Art Journal*, and her work has been written about in *Artforum*, *Art in America*, *Filmmaker Magazine*, and *The New York Times*. Her 1995 feature documentary *BloodSisters: Leather, Dykes and Sodomasochism* is being re-released by Kino Lorber this summer, and her exhibition *These Unruly and Ungovernable Selves* is currently on view at The Madison Museum of Contemporary Art through August 15, 2021.

Co-founder, vocalist, and multi-instrumentalist of the dark, electronic band LIGHT ASYLUM. **Shannon Funchess** developed her powerful contralto singing in a Southern Baptist church choir as a child, adding Joy Division and Bauhaus to her list of influences as a teen. She moved to Seattle in the late '80s, performing in indie rock bands, before moving to New York in 2001. Funchess' vocal prowess has been sought after for many collaborations with acts such as TV on the Radio, The Knife, and LCD Soundsystem. In 2015, she participated in a Knight Foundation residency in Detroit, spearheaded by the electronic duo ADULT. Funchess, now residing in Portland, Oregon, is currently enlivening a 20-year DJ career, performing new solo material under the moniker HEALING CRISIS and producing the sophomore follow-up album to LIGHT ASYLUM's 2012 self-titled debut LP released on Mexican Summer Records."

Special thanks: Jill H. Casid, Frank Smigiel, John Morrow, Michael Rush, and Dominic Cloutier

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: Michelle Handelman, *DOOMSCROLLING* (2021) video still [Still image of the artists, Michelle Handelman and Shannon Funchess wearing headphones and standing before microphones amidst a black background. A small vignette image on the lower right shows the ASL interpreter Candace Davider.]

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