



DEATHLESSNESS

A multi-channel video installation by M. LAMAR

May 4 - 7, 2017

As the Kingdom Burns:

**Reflections on the work of M. Lamar in Preparation for the Release of His New Book
NegroGothic**

With a special performance by M. Lamar

Sponsored by MATERIAL

Sunday, May 7, 7-9pm

The motionless movement of death from slavery to segregation to neo-segregation is not progress. --Antony Paul Farley

From May 4-7, 2017, PARTICIPANT will celebrate the launch of our partnership with the Art Basel Crowdfunding Initiative and Kickstarter with a multi-channel installation by M. Lamar, **DEATHLESSNESS**. This installation and performance is organized in support of a book on the work of artist, countertenor, and composer M. Lamar. The book was initiated on the occasion of Lamar's first solo exhibition, *NEGROGOTHIC*, a *Manifesto* at PARTICIPANT INC in 2014 and San Francisco Art Institute in 2015. Describing the exhibition, the artist noted that, "*NEGROGOTHIC* politics resurrect, perform, and prophesy radical potentialities of blackness."

Like the gothic novel, this project mixes romanticism with horror - the horror is American white supremacy. Born in Mobile, Alabama, Lamar draws inspiration from Southern gothic as well as underground, goth, and post punk music. At the center of NEGROGOTHICISM is the Negro Antichrist, a rock star or blues man like Screamin' Jay Hawkins, with a big, operatic voice, and a deep connection to the supernatural. "NEGROGOTHIC aesthetics transect romanticism, surrealism, horror, pornography, gospel, metal, and early silent film," Lamar continues. "From the slave ship to the pillory... on plantations and lynching trees... within and beyond the prison and the grave... the NEGROGOTHIC binds archive to myth, merging bodily properties with supernatural possession."

The publication will feature commissioned texts by Tucker Culbertson, Sabin Calvert, T. L. Cowan, Ron Gregg, Jane Harris, and Brandon Peter Masterman; foreword by Lia Gangitano, PARTICIPANT INC; afterword by Hesse McGraw, SFAI; an interview with Lamar's twin sister, transgender activist and actor Laverne Cox; project narratives; and video stills interspersed with Lamar's illustrations, graphics, and poetry. Designed by Klaus Kempnaars of xSITE, the book's design is strongly influenced by the pamphlets used for slave auctions and anti-slavery meetings used in the Antebellum period.

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edition of 1500

PARTICIPANT INC

M. Lamar's work has been presented internationally, most recently at Södra Teatern Stockholm Sweden, The New Museum, New York, Warehouse9 Copenhagen, Denmark, WWDIS Fest in Gothenburg and Stockholm, La MaMa ETC, Queer-Feminist Anti-Racist Performance Festival Stockholm Sweden, Dixon Place, Performatorium Regina Canada, The International Theater Festival Donzdorf, Germany, Cathedral of St. John the Divine New York, P.S. 122 New York and The African American Arts and Culture Complex San Francisco among others. M. Lamar holds a B.F.A. from the San Francisco Art institute and attended the Yale School of Art in the sculpture program before dropping out to pursue music. Lamar is a recipient of the Franklin Furnace Fund Grant 2013-14 and the MATERIAL Prize 2016. Lamar has had many years of classical vocal study with Ira Siff, among others.

THANK YOU:

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PARTICIPANT INC is located at 253 East Houston Street, between Norfolk and Suffolk Streets on the LES, ground floor, wheelchair accessible. Subway: F to Second Avenue, Allen Street exit; or JMZ to Essex/Delancey. participantinc.org