**LiVEART.US**

Saturday, February 20, 2016, 3:00 PM

Hosted at **QUEENS MUSEUM**

LiVEART.US is a new platform established to feature works by local, national, and international artists working in Performance Art and its diverse manifestations.

Created and organized by interdisciplinary artist, Hector Canonge, LiVEART.US follows and complements the monthly program TALKaCTIVE: performance art conversation series, initiated by the artist last September.  The program's main objective is to further support the creation and presentation of new works in Live Action Art in an environment suitable for reflection and dialogue.

This month’s artists have been invited to participate in the program with new works that explore current concerns in contemporary American society.

Participating artists: ***Bobby English Jr., Heeran Lee, Honey Jernquist (Honey McMoney), Martha Wilson, Veronica Peña,*** *and* ***Jacob Cohen.***

Organized and curated by ***Hector Canonge***.

About the artists:

**Bobby English Jr.** creates empowering, yet self- destructive performances inspired by world mythologies, ancestry, identity, dreams, and the dualities of nature.His process is very laborious and exhausting, yet it is meditative and spiritual. While creating, and even after completion, there is a dialogue happening between the form and English’s body. The dialogue ultimately becomes mystic, almost ritualistic, thought-provoking performances that he feels are channeled from the many mythological archetypes that he understands both from his own life experiences and those of his ancestors. Often times, these performances become uncomfortable, alienating, dangerous, and painful. However, physical and/or spiritual distress aids English in connecting to his higher-self; sacrifice for enlightenment. English wants people to be inspired to connect with the divine nature within themselves, their personal mythologies, and be comfortable in the expression of their divinity, their true selves. The goal of his art is to create an atmosphere for conversation, understanding, and ultimately compassion for all people. English studied at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore and Studio Art Centers International in Florence, Italy. Since his first exhibition in 2011, English’s work has been shown in major Baltimore galleries, and Art Basel Miami in 2011. His *Mothership Connection* sculptures and performances were the subject of much praise, and have been shown in multiple exhibitions nationally.

**Heeran Lee** is a performance artist whose body centered work explores private and public gestures of the Asian female body in the patriarchal power structure and investigates cultural marginalization. Her recent grants have included the ARKO Young Art Frontier from Arts Council Korea (2013), she was a Semi-finalist for the emerging artist prize from The Claire Rosen & Samuel Edes Foundation (2012) and The Anna Louise Raymond Fellowship (2012). Her work has been shown at Culture Station Seoul 284(Korea 2014), Grace Exhibition Space (New York 2013), The Watermill Center (New York 2012), Defibrillator Gallery (Chicago 2012), and Rockbund Art Museum (Shanghai 2011). She holds an MFA specializing in performance from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and was a fellow artist of LEIMAY 2014-2015 at CAVE in New York.

**Honey Jernquist (Honey McMoney)** is a conceptual artist, painter and performance artist. He lived in San Francisco for twenty years. He rather spontaneously started performing in 2009. Since then he has performed dozens of pieces on the street, in lobbies, in hallways, in bedrooms, in galleries, and occasionally theaters. He now lives in Brooklyn, and has recently completed a personal practice cycle in Union Square called End of Life Planning Starts Now. He strives with his work to create spacious vessels - experiences without specified meaning or interpretation. Since 2014, he has worked at MoMA as performance facilitator, performing and engaging the public around performance and interaction, for Lygia Clark: The Abandonment of Art, 1948-1988; James Lee Byars: 1/2 an Autobiography; Yoko Ono: One Woman Show, 1960-1971; and currently performing David Lamelas’s piece Time for Transmissions: Art in Eastern Europe and Latin America, 1960–1980. He will be performing at Grace Exhibition Space on October 8 as part of Performancy Forum Quinquennial; and in Berlin on November 13 at Haus am Lützowplatz/Studiogalerie for You Can Feel It, curated by Jonny Star. He continues a personal practice he calls the form is formless.

**Martha Wilson** is a pioneering feminist artist and gallery director, who over the past four decades created innovative photographic and video works that explore her female subjectivity. She has been described by *New York Times* critic Holland Cotter as one of “the half-dozen most important people for art in downtown Manhattan in the 1970s.” In 1976 she founded Franklin Furnace, an artist-run space that champions the exploration, promotion and preservation of artist books, temporary installation, performance art, as well as online works. She is represented by P.P.O.W Gallery in New York. Martha Wilson received an Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design University in 2013. She has received fellowships for performance art from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York Foundation for the Arts; Bessie and Obie awards for commitment to artists’ freedom of expression; a Yoko Ono Lennon Courage Award for the Arts; a Richard Massey Foundation-White Box Arts and Humanities Award; a Lifetime Achievement Award from Women’s Caucus for Art; and the Audrey Irmas Award for Curatorial Excellence from the Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College.

**Veronica Peña** was born in Spain and resides in Indiana. Peña’s work explores the themes of absence, separation, and the search for harmony through performance art. Her recent work consists of experimental participatory performances that create shared moments amongst strangers. Peña earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts at The Polytechnic University of Valencia, Spain. She earned her Master of Fine Arts at Stony Brook University, New York, focusing on installation and performance art. Peña has exhibited in Spain, Germany, Italy, South Korea, and the United States. In New York, her work has been featured at The Lab Gallery (for Installation + Performance Art), at Times Square (Times Square Alliance), at the Armory Show 2010 (Gabarron Foundation), in the “13th DUMBO Arts Festival (DUMBO Arts Center), and numerous not-for-profit galleries. In Spain, her work has been exhibited at Casa de America (Madrid), Fundacion Antonio Saura (Cuenca), Museo Orus (Zaragoza), and Fundacion Caja Rioja (La Rioja) amongst others. She has been a recipient of the Socrates-Erasmus Grant, the Universidad Complutense de Madrid Fellowship, and a candidate for the Dedalus Foundation Grant. She has been an Artist-in-Residence at Vermont Studio Center, United States. She has published “The\_Presence\_Of\_The\_Absent”, a thesis about her body of work.

**Jacob Cohen** is a Brooklyn-based experimental cellist and street performer. He is the founder of *Cello Without Walls*, a music program for 16 and 17-year-old inmates at Rikers Island's Robert N. Davoren Center. Jacob has performed and collaborated with performance artists and musicians in the United States and abroad. His compositions have been presented at Grace Exhibition Space, Glasshouse Project, and in other venues in Brooklyn. His is currently developing new work in Cyprus in collaboration with musicians and Greek music ensemble.

**Hector Canonge** is an interdisciplinary artist, curator and cultural entrepreneur based in New York City. His work incorporates the use of new media technologies, cinematic narratives, Live Action Art, and Social Practice to explore and treat issues related to constructions of identity, gender roles, psychogeography, and the politics of migration.  Challenging the white box settings of a gallery or a museum, or intervening directly in public spaces, his performances mediate movement, endurance, and ritualistic processes.  Some of his actions and carefully choreographed performances involve collaborating with other artists and interacting with audiences. His work has been exhibited and presented in the United States, Latin America, Europe and Asia. As cultural entrepreneur, Canonge started projects such as ARTerial Performance Lab (APLAB), an initiative to foster collaboration among performance artists from the Americas, PERFORMEANDO, a program that focuses on featuring Hispanic performance artists living in the USA and Europe, NEXUSURNEXUS a virtual platform for Live Action Art, and PERFORMAXIS, an international residency program in collaboration with galleries and art spaces in Latin America. He created, and organizes independently the annual Performance Art Festival NYC, ITINERANT. Canonge is the co-founder of QMAD, Queens Media Arts Development, a non-profit arts organization in Queens, NYC. As curator, he has organized exhibitions at Centro Cultural Santa Cruz, Queens Museum, Space 37 Gallery, and Visual AIDS.  He started the monthly artists’ program A-LAB Forum at Crossing Art Gallery, and created the monthly independent film series CINEMAROSA.  Canonge’s work has been reviewed by The New York Times, ART FORUM, Art in America, New York Daily News, Manhattan Times, Hispanic Magazine; by major networks ABC, NBC, CNN, CBS, UNIVISION, etc., and online by Art Experience NYC, Hyperallergic, Turbulence, Art Card Review, and New York Foundation for the Arts’ bulletin NYFA News.

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