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Queer Threads: Curious Cabaret

*An online event presented as part of
Queer Threads: CURIOUS SPACES*

Tuesday, October 13, 2020, 7-8pm

Free; Advance Registration Required:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/queer-threads-curious-cabaret-tickets-120422971349>



Queer Threads: Curious Cabaret features short readings and performances by a mix of emerging queer artists inspired by the *Queer Threads: CURIOUS SPACES* exhibitions currently on view at Transformer and The Corner at Whitman-Walker.

Organized by Transformer and Queer Threads curator John Chaich, *Queer Threads: CURIOUS SPACES* features solo artist installations by emerging queer artists Zoe Schlachter and André Terrel Jackson. *Queer Threads: CURIOUS SPACES* online programming is presented every Tuesday evening throughout October, and every other Thursday evening through mid November in partnership with guest artists, The George Washington University Museum & The Textile Museum, and American University's Fine Art Department & The American University Museum. Visit www.transformerdc.org for details.

Queer Threads: CURIOUS SPACES is supported in part by an award Transformer received from The National Endowment for the Arts.

Queer Threads: Curious Cabaret supports and presents artists: **Armando Lopez-Bircann, Moréna Espiritual, André Terrel Jackson, Felli Maynard, Buzz Slutzky, and Juh Weems.** This program is organized by Transformer in collaboration with artist **Muse Dodd**, *Queer Threads: Curious Cabaret* contributing curator, technical producer, DJ & Host.

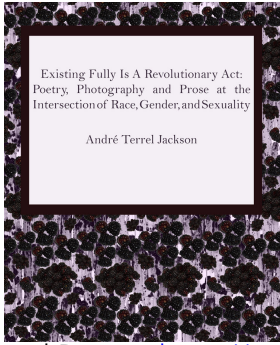
ARTIST PERFORMANCE & BIOS:



Moréna Espiritual presents *an ode to the parts of me i wish to mourn*, an experimental theater piece & Fall ritual of shedding that follows Moréna through layers of their subconscious – clearing them of the fear of cultivating and sharing their gift of being a portal/vessel for spirit by using performance & dance.

Moréna Espiritual is a non-binary educator and performance artist exploring gender, sexual liberty, and ancestral memory in cyberspace and some place near you. They have taught their craft internationally, from colleges in the U.S. to places like Ecuador and Canada. Currently, their performance piece *The Retrocurrence* is on display in *CYBERHEALING* for the Latinx Project at NYU. You can listen to their debut single *bebecit* on all streaming platforms. Image Credit: Moréna Espiritual

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André Terrel Jackson presents *Reverence* a live reading of three poems, *Candied Yams*, *Rituals*, and *Blackberries* from their chapbook, *Existing Fully Is A Revolutionary Act*. The chapbook is a small exploration of personal narrative through autobiographic reflections, self portraits and poetry explore gender, race and sexuality. All poems explore queerness and power.

Interested in the individual experiences that add up to create social, political and cultural groups, André mines personal history, using poetry, weaving, sculpture, apparel and performance to spark conversation about difficult issues related to identity. Jackson received a BA in Fashion from Albright College and an MFA in Fibers from Savannah College of Art and Design. <https://www.andreterreljackson.com/> Image Credit: André Terrel Jackson

Armando Lopez-Bircann presents *FemNomNomNom*, a mixed reality cabaret performance featuring Arma Dura in digital and physical wearables designed with a genderfluid lens. This performance is a call to adventure with armors made of ribbons.

Lopez-Bircann is a Latinx artist that engineers wearable sculptures, digital media and performances. Their practice is framed by immigrant narratives, genderfluid expression and digital native sensibilities. They design works in collaboration with dancers, circus performers, photographers, videographers, musicians and other artists. Currently living in Washington DC, Lopez-Bircann is a former DC Commission of Arts and Humanities fellow, Concordia University and Corcoran College of Art + Design alumni. <https://linktr.ee/arlobi> Image Credit: Julian Valencia & Armando Lopez-Bircann.



Felicita Felli Maynard presents *Primp*, a re-imagination of queer life in the early 20th century celebrating radical queer communities existing pre-Stonewall, while also giving a specific focus to how that looks in and out of the archive. Maynard offers space for these imagined queer ancestors to exist and honor the lives of what could have been, while also respecting the name and likeness of those queer ancestors who wanted that part of their lives to remain private. This work is a remix of the past in order to envision an inclusive future.

Maynard is a first generation Afrolatinx genderqueer interdisciplinary artist & educator. They use analog and alternative photography to explore their identity as a queer, gender non-conforming descendant of the African diaspora. <https://www.photofelli.com/> Image Credit: Felli Maynard

Buzz Slutzky presents *Clothes Feelings*, a live performance exploring themes on clothes and gender, quarantine, body feelings, targeted ads, and health concerns/TMI.

Slutzky is a non-binary transgender and white Ashkenazi Jewish artist, illustrator, filmmaker, educator, and performer. Their multidisciplinary art practice incorporates drawing, painting, sculpture, installation, and video. Their autobiographical and research-based practices build upon trans, queer, feminist, and leftist Jewish cultural traditions with an often humorous and frank voice. As a performer, Buzz has mixed stand-up comedy and musical comedy under the persona Stoni Butchell, among others. <http://www.buzzslutzky.com/> Image Credit: Buzz Slutzky



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Juh Weems presents *black pleasure, play and rest as radical*. "While the pedagogical manuals* attributed the hardships of freedom to idleness**, infantilism***, and intemperance**** or contrasted the burden of independence with the ease of slavery, the emancipated identified the sources of adversity as their lack of resources, the government's unwillingness to provide reparations, the pervasiveness of white violence, and the failure of the law to protect black lives." - Saidiya V. Hartman, *Scenes of Subjection*, 1997

black play, pleasure and rest are radical is an auto-ethnographic video work comprised of various repurposed works, talks and recordings created by fatblackclit.

*= published at the advent of emancipation by plantation owner, white women abolitionists in the North, religious and educational institutions and distributed widely to the newly freed regarding the responsibilities of their newly bestowed freedom

**= black rest

***= black play

****= black pleasure z

fatblackclit/janae/juh weems is black. nigga, more specifically. which is to say, janae is all things. anything. everything. necessarily. niggas become all things needed to thrive in each next moment that niggas create. weems is black, is nigga, is fat, is femme in this one body meaning inherently queer, inherently trans, inherently kinky. a freak. meaning always playing. meaning always recreating self as a means of ensuring existence in the future.

janae is a nigga, which is to say at the heart of janae's work is the irreverent, holy groundedness of improvisation, self-destruction and re-creation, embodiment of many generations of shapeshifting black femmes and dykes and gender-suspicious, genre-fucking beings before, behind and between.

juh works to unsettle the mess of who we (niggas) are. exhumes the dirt of when and how we are. and works to understand how we can craft more expansive space to be who we are. to be free.

janae is the co-organizer of DC-based Black Femme Brunch, the co-host of WRSHP (We Really Shouldn't Have a Podcast), a podcast about how two fat, black, queer, churchy ass niggas navigate their healing. janae is also a cohort of the Halcyon Arts Lab Fellow cohort 3. Image Credit: Juh Weems

t r a n s f o r m e r is a Washington, DC based 501 (c) 3 artist-centered, non-profit visual arts organization. Founded in June 2002 by artists & arts organizers, Transformer connects and promotes a diversity of emerging artists & emerging arts leaders within local, national and international contexts.

Our mission is to create and cultivate innovative exhibition and programming collaborations and platforms for emerging artists and arts leaders to explore and present experimental artistic concepts, foster cultural dialogue, build audiences for new & best practices in contemporary visual art, and advance artists' careers.

t r a n s f o r m e r's 2020/21 Exhibition Series and programs are supported by: Bloomberg Philanthropies, The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, The Cross Currents Foundation, The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities/NEA, The Robert Lehman Foundation, The Sachiko Kuno Foundation, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and The Visionary Friends of Transformer – a growing group of individual donors & corporate sponsors.