

For Immediate Release



## **Knockdown Center Announces Series of Performance and Activations to Accompany Exhibition *Cura(Collected)***

Featuring contributions by Justin Cabrillos, Sayre Quevedo, Lily Jue Sheng and more

Knockdown Center is pleased to announce the performances and activations that comprise *Cura(Collected)*, an exhibition that accumulates over time in a series of artist interventions that investigate care, empathy, and nurture. Organized by Sessa Englund, *Cura(Collected)* is a collaborative project by Anjuli Rathod, Eduardo Restrepo Castaño, Oscar Moises Diaz with an accompanying essay by manuel arturo abreu. For this project each artist has brought in collaborators and community for a series of ongoing, cumulative interventions that will take place within an architectural structure inside of the gallery each week from November 4th through December 3rd, and will remain on view in its final state until December 17th, 2017.

In addition to scheduled performances, the collaborating artists will activate the architectural structure in the center of the gallery on a daily basis. As the exhibition accumulates, the material residue and traces of prior interventions will remain in the space alongside a video record of each act.

Featuring contributions by Justin Cabrillos, Mariana Herrera Castaño, Nancy Chavarria, Mauricio Esquivel, Julia Pimes Mata, Karina Puente, Sayre Quevedo, Crack Rodriguez, Carmelle Safdie, Matthew Shalzi, Lily Jue Sheng, and Veronica Vides.

### **SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC PERFORMANCES**

#### **Sunday, November 5**

5:00pm

*Me eligio* with Mariana Herrera Castaño

Mariana Herrera Castaño's performance *Me eligio* asks audiences to participate in facilitating the translation between Spanish and English, music and spoken language.

6:00pm

*as of it* with Justin Cabrillos and Matt Shalzi

Justin Cabrillos presents a dance with performer and sculptor Matt Shalzi, examining contemporary manifestations of the sacred through morphing, repetitive movements. An emulsion of religious fervor, hallucinogenic ecstasy, hardcore moshing, and trance, Cabrillos and Shalzi respond to each other's somatic improvisations, superimposing gestures that result in sculptural formations that undulate in between abstract and bodily compositions

### **Sunday, December 3**

4:00pm

*Five Movements* with Anjali Rathod and Lily Jue Sheng

Anjali Rathod and Lily Jue Sheng present *Five Movements*, a multimedia work comprised of a video, painting, sculpture, and performance with contributions from Nyle Genevieve Kim Kaliski and Zach Hart. Sheng's choreography between forms explores a deeply personal and contemporary interpretation of Wu Xing, a traditional Chinese concept of elements and cycles. In *Five Movements*, the artists present a synesthetic environment, combining Sheng's inspirations from Taoist philosophy, lucid dreams, and ceremonial practices, and Rathod's interests in dreams, memory, animism, and hybridity. The artists' integration of their bodies navigate different spaces: between thought and action, theater and reality, immaterial and physical, interior and exterior. This collaborative effort considers the tradition of women practicing ritual in support of themselves and each other in healing from trauma and depression, and as a means of survival under systemic barriers and oppression.

6:00pm

*recursos/resources* with Eduardo Restrepo Castaño

Eduardo Restrepo Castaño restages their performance *recursos/resources*, a performative auction. In the piece, the artist auctions off one piece of work, along with three hours of labor to participating audience members. 100% of the money gathered will go towards a monetary fund that will be then given directly to a trans-femme individual in Restrepo Castaño's home town Quimbaya, Colombia.

### **SELECT ACTIVATIONS**

In addition to ongoing contributions by the collaborating artists of *Cura(Collected)*, participating artists have been invited to activate the architectural structure through performance and temporary installations, November 4th - December 3rd, 2017. Each installation will remain on view until the following iteration.

### **Saturday, November 4**

In a collaboration between Anjali Rathod and Karina Puente, a papel picado work by Puente will hang in the interior of the architectural structure anchoring the exhibition. Rathod will create a painting onto the light impressions filtered through the papel picado's carved mythological images. Inspired by the artists' conversations, together their work forms a narrative about the experiences of women of color in a world of unchecked power.

### **Thursday, November 9**

A mini pop-up retrospective of Crack Rodriguez's work will be installed within the architectural structure, with accompanying text by Oscar Moises Diaz.

### **Sunday, November 11**

Carmelle Safdie's *Models for Imagined Nightclubs* are reflections on the artist's communal creative experiences as a musician. In this immersive collage, Safdie will present various blueprints that serve as proposals for utopian places for equitable social connectivity and

freedom of expression. Through graphic abstraction, Safdie creates a space for imagining a self uninhibited by societal constraints and repression.

### **Saturday, November 18**

Eduardo Restrepo Castaño and Julia Pimes Mata will be on-site, engaged in the on-going transformation of the exhibition into a semi-permanent mural. Visitors are welcome to observe in a manner that is mindful of the artists and their processes.

### **Sunday, November 19**

Oscar Moises Diaz will bring together the work of Nancy Chavarria, Veronica Vides, and Sayre Quevedo in a video and sound installation related to Sayre Quevedo's *re:-construcción* project. This project focuses on an oral history of the Salvadoran civil war, using audio and text recounting personal narratives from Chavarria, Vides and Diaz.

Knockdown Center gallery hours are Thursday and Friday from 5 PM to 9 PM, Saturday and Sunday from 2 PM to 8 PM. Knockdown Center is located at 52-19 Flushing Ave, Maspeth, NY 11378.

### **About Knockdown Center**

Featuring programming of diverse formats and media, Knockdown Center aims to create a radically cross-disciplinary environment. The particularity of our architectural environment and history leads us to gravitate toward projects that demonstrate a sensitive reactivity to site and environment. Visit our website, or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

### **Press Inquiries:**

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