

For Immediate Release



**KNOCKDOWN CENTER ANNOUNCES SUNDAY SERVICE
SPRING 2018 CURATORS:
JESS PRETTY, RENA ANAKWE, JANANI
BALASUBRAMANIAN, AND MARIANA VALENCIA**



ray ferreira performs at Sunday Service, November 2017. Image: Knockdown Center.

Knockdown Center announces curators for the spring 2018 season of **Sunday Service**, a free monthly series of live work across mediums in the Ready Room. The spring season curators include: **Jess Pretty, Rena Anakwe, Janani Balasubramanian,** and **Mariana Valencia**. Each month's artist lineup to be announced soon.

Sunday Service Spring 2018 Schedule:

March 4, 7pm: Curator Jess Pretty
April 8, 7pm: Curator Rena Anakwe
May 6, 7pm: Curator Janani Balasubramanian
June 3, 7pm: Curator Mariana Valencia

About Sunday Service

Taking place the first Sunday of each month, a guest curator is invited to organize a salon style evening of cross-disciplinary performances and presentations that brings together a

multiplicity of views around a singular prompt, such as a question, theme, or formal structure. Sunday Service centers works in progress, interdisciplinary endeavors, and diversity in format showcased in a lo-fi environment to foster the testing of ideas and critical discourse amongst peers.

Previous Sunday Service curators include Andrea Arrubla, Caitlin Baucom, Alexis Convento, Camilo Godoy, Jonathan Gonzalez, Niall Jones, MAMI (Dyani Douze & Ali Rosa-Salas), Buzz Slutzky, J.Soto, and Same As Sister (Briana Brown-Tippley and Hilary Brown).

Previous participants include Alexandra Bell, Raha Behnam, Effie Bowen, Eduardo Restrepo Castano, Jes Fan, NIC Kay, Tiona McClodden, Trace Peterson, Lorelei Ramirez, James Allister Sprang, Keijaun Thomas, and YATTA, amongst many others.

About the Curators

Jess pretty is on a quest for pleasure that transcends time and the spaces she claims to reside in. On her quest for pleasure she makes dances, performs and collaborates with other artists (Larissa Velez-Jackson, Will Rawls, Leslie Cuyjet, Dianne McIntyre, Cynthia Oliver, Jennifer Monson and Niall Jones) and teaches dance art based in New York City where she moved after receiving an MFA in Dance and Queer Studies from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her free time is filled curating methodologies for living past survival through being as unapologetically black as possible.

Rena Anakwe is an interdisciplinary artist and performer, working primarily with sound, visuals, and scent. Exploring intersections between traditional healing practices, spirituality and performance she creates works focused on sensory-based, experiential interactions using technology. A member of the artistic collective NON Worldwide, she is based in Brooklyn, New York by way of Nigeria and Canada.

Janani Balasubramanian is a writer and gamemaker whose work has been presented at more than 160 stages across North America and Europe, including The Public Theater, MOMA, Abrons Arts Center, Andy Warhol Museum, Red Bull Arts, Ace Hotel, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Most recently, Balasubramanian premiered Heisenberg (an audio augmented reality game on uncertainty and chaos) at the New York High Line. Balasubramanian is currently a Van Lier fellow in new media at the Public Theater, and is working on Stargeit, a Cold War era novel about an extraordinary friendship.

Mariana Valencia is a dance artist based in Brooklyn, New York. Valencia has held residencies at Chez Bushwick (2013), New York Live Arts Studio Series (2013-14), ISSUE Project Room (2015) and Brooklyn Arts Exchange (2016-18). In Los Angeles, she's held residencies at Show Box LA and Pieter Pasd (2014). Her work has been presented at Danspace Project, Roulette, the Center for Performance Research, The New Museum, The Women and Performance Journal, Lec/Dem, Ugly Duckling Presse, AUNTS and The L.A.B at The Kitchen. As a performer, Valencia has worked with musician Jules Gimbrone; video artists Elizabeth Orr, Kate Brandt, and AK Burns and in dances by Robbinschilds, Kim Brandt and MPA. Valencia is a founding member of the No Total reading a partner of Artists Space Books and Talks and she has been the co-editor of Movement Research's Critical Correspondence (2016-17). Valencia holds a BA from Hampshire College in Amherst, MA (2006) with a concentration in dance and ethnography.

Sunday Service is programmed by Stephanie Acosta and Alexis Wilkinson, Knockdown Center's Director of Exhibitions and Live Art.

About Knockdown Center

Knockdown Center is an art and performance space dedicated to cross-disciplinary projects and collaborations. Visit our century-old building for innovative and experimental programming in visual arts, performance, music and more. 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. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#), or visit our website at [Knockdown.Center](#).

Knockdown Center's arts programming is proposal-driven. To learn more about how to submit a proposal for consideration, please visit: <https://knockdown.center/proposals>.

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