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Associated Artists of Pittsburgh Presents

Performance Series

An exhibition of work by Pittsburgh-area performance artists

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (April 13, 2022) – Associated Artists of Pittsburgh presents our *Performance Series*, an exhibition of performance work over a seven-week period at our Lawrenceville location. The series will feature new work by Princess Jafar, Carson Sestili & Alexis Retcofsky, Ariel Pang, pvkvs, Jessica Fuquay, Tara Fay, and Teal Fitzpatrick. As part of the performance, each artist will leave an item behind for the next artist to incorporate into their performance. These remnant objects will build over time with each following performance having to engage, interpret, and implement those items occupying the performance space to alter the audience experience of the individual works and overall space.

This series and resulting exhibition are the concept of Samira Mendoza and Talia Heiman. Samira is an interdisciplinary performance artist, curator, and educator based in Pittsburgh, PA. Talia is Curatorial Assistant for the 58th Carnegie International at Carnegie Museum of Art.

“Samira and I are so thrilled to be initiating AAP’s first performance series,” says Talia Heiman. “The six groups selected span music, installation, theater, and performance art. We were overwhelmed with outstanding applications and hope this will be the first of many incredible performance opportunities in AAP’s beautiful space.”

The first piece will be performed at 6:00pm this Saturday, April 16th, by Princess Jafar, and the series will conclude on Thursday, May 19th with a performance by Tara Fay. More about the artists and their performances is listed below.

“One thing I love about the series is this concept of what remains,” says AAP Executive Director Madeline Gent. “We all deal with what remains in our own lives. Watching these artists work through that concept enables us to explore how each of us may hold onto or let go of things in our own lives as well as consider the burden we ask others to carry.”

Schedule

- Saturday April 16 @ 6:00pm – Princess Jafar
- Saturday April 23 @ 8:00pm – Carson Sestili & Alexis Retcofsky
- Saturday April 30 @ TBD – Ariel Pang; pvkvs
- Saturday May 14 @ TBD – Jessica Fuquay
- Thursday May 19 @ 7:00pm – Tara Fay
- Ongoing – Teal Fitzpatrick

Admission to the Associated Artists of Pittsburgh Exhibition Space is free, and the exhibition is open to the public. More information about the exhibition can be found at aapgh.org or by calling (412)361-1370. AAP hours are 11:00am–6:00pm, Wednesdays–Fridays, and the updated performance schedule is available online at <http://aapgh.org/performance-series>.

The series is being documented by the Empty Space Project. To learn more, visit <https://emptyspaceproject.com/e-s-p>.

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About Associated Artists of Pittsburgh

The Associated Artists of Pittsburgh (AAP) is the oldest continuous-exhibiting artist member organization in the country. Founded in 1910, Associated Artists of Pittsburgh is a 501(c)3 non-profit that exhibits, promotes, and supports the work of visual artists who call Pittsburgh and the surrounding region home. AAP organizes 7-12 exhibitions a year at our Lawrenceville space and with partners throughout western Pennsylvania, manages various educational and professional development workshops, and provides additional programming for our artist community. Membership is achieved through a juried process, and the next membership screening opens in late 2022.

About Princess Jafar

International sensation and star of stage and screen, Princess Jafar, returns to her hometown of Pittsburgh, PA hot off a world tour to further research and develop a new form of brainwashing. Her plans to control people's minds through the airwaves, TV shows and feature films have all been foiled by her archnemeses N8 Puppets, slowdanger, Gia Fagnelli, Snugglzs, Livefromthecity and the moon baby, but her next plan is even more evil than any before. Your mission is to stop her before it is too late, and her brand of saccharine pop singles and mindless TV specials have infected the whole world. Approach with extreme caution and always use a flash when photographing her. End transmission.

About Carson Sestili & Alexis Retcofsky

Carson Sestili creates experimental electronic music as Actias. Sestili's performances center improvisation, often with dynamic systems that evolve autonomously, but respond expressively to input. Sestili's pieces are both slow-moving, gentle atmospheres and distorted walls of sound, and explore the liminal space between these extremes. Sestili works in live sound for theater and music for the New Hazlett Theater and City of Asylum.

Alexis Retcofsky is a theater artist focused mainly on prop making and dance. She is a teacher, performer, and general stage tech at the Carnegie Performing Arts Center dance school. She is part of the front of house staff at the New Hazlett Theater and freelances as a prop master for local theater companies. She has a BFA in Theater Arts from Point Park University.

About Ariel Pang

Ariel Pang is multidisciplinary artist, educator, performance practitioner, and contemporary butoh dancer that has worked in sound, drawing, painting, collage, holography, theatre and film in commercial as well as experimental environments/projects. Their creative process is often a performance/celebration that simultaneously functions as an archiving of ancestral modalities for long-term wellness and liberation.

About pvkvsv

pvkvsv (pah•kah'•sah) is an emerging beatmaker, producer, and DJ from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In his music production he expands upon jazz and hip-hop roots & incorporates electronic elements as well as samples from music that moves. His instrumentals are often topped with environmental nature cues to create a more immersive experience for listeners to ground themselves in. pvkvsv released his first album, peels 2, in January 2019 as part of the Stacks Collection by the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. On MSYH.FM, a Pittsburgh-based independent radio platform, pvkvsv also curates a radio show called Currents- an eclectic mix series infusing music from independent & forward-thinking artists who are pushing the surrounding culture forward with their sound.

About Jessica Fuquay

Jessica Fuquay is a Colombian American interdisciplinary artist, composer, and DJ currently based in Pittsburgh, PA. She makes videos, performances, and sound compositions that activate the embedded histories of specific sites and events through sustained observation, listening, and sometimes intervention. She is currently a MFA Candidate at Carnegie Mellon School of Art in Pittsburgh, PA and has participated in residencies at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Madison, ME and Project Row Houses in Houston, TX.

About Tara Fay

Tara Fay's work consists of a multidisciplinary praxis which exists as a study in duality, a constant work in progress, and a continued exploration of Black female subjectivity, language, selfhood, and self-presentation. Through performance, photography, text, and mixed media works, Fay mines her lived experience for subject matter with a goal to intertwine life and work. Fay describes her practice overall as constantly reframing her own artistic record, as her work grows and evolves.

About Teal Fitzpatrick

Teal Fitzpatrick is a fiber artist and writer living in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Their work is an ongoing project of giving form to the invisible with particular interest the relationship between symbolic image and interior psychological space. Teal's work is featured in the 2021 Fiber Art Now Emerging Artist Showcase.