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SF Camerawork
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NOW: A VIDEO ART RITUAL

John Sanborn and Monet Clark
FEBRUARY 8 - APRIL 7, 2018

SAN FRANCISCO, February 2018 – SF Camerawork is pleased to present *NOW: A Video Art Ritual*, a multi-screen, audience participatory performance and video installation produced by performance and video artist Monet Clark and media artist John Sanborn.



NOW Film Still of Perspicacious (Right); *NOW* Film Still of Catharsis (Left)

NOW is guided by two hilarious opposing (s)heros: the sarcastic rage filled, haute goth Catharsis and the vamp, valkyrie yogini Perspicacious. Within 10 screens, including a projection on water, they explore the nexus between technology and ritual by inviting their audience's participation, guiding them through a personal process. *NOW* was created to provide its audiences with tools to navigate fatalism, grief and trauma. These contrasting protagonists cast a mystical space, and wittily survey contemporary and historical pitfalls, while bringing the audience into the present now moment. *NOW* examines cultural



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appropriation and evolution; global warming; punk rock ideology; and spiritual philosophy. It was created to provide comic relief and ironic commentary on this present moment in history, while inspiring the concept that “you matter now.” The script draws parallels between the unshackling of the feminine principle and the validation of indigenous, holistic, environmental animalistic, pre-burning times and pre-patriarchal perspectives.

NOW's running time for all 10 screens will be approximately 25 minutes, which will loop indefinitely. A Sacred Circle of 6 flat screen monitors guides the ritual encasing the audience in sacred space and at times involves a kaleidoscope effect of imagery. A projection of water on the floor acts as a transmutation device where the audience can energetically release negativity. It involves an elaborate screen orchestration, ripe with a plethora of culture's sacred symbols, female deities, found footage of recent social movements, and the social history of North America and more. All of these speak to our melting pot American culture. The two character's performance are projected opposite each other. Their comical and passionate interchanges, revolve around their guidance of the audience through an internal ritualistic and transformational process.

This unique work, commissioned by SF Camerawork and funded through the support of the Wattis Foundation and The Bernard Osher Foundation, will travel to venues throughout the country and internationally.



NOW: Film Still of Perspacious



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ARTIST BIOS:

JOHN SANBORN is an award-winning media artist whose work has been shown and broadcast in museums across the world, including the Whitney Museum, MOMA, El Prado; the Centre Pompidou, the Tate Gallery, and the Seibu Museum. Recently, Sanborn was named Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres by the Minister of Culture of the Republic of France. He has created broadcast work for PBS (“Alive TV”,

“Great Performances” and “Sesame Street”), and Comedy Central (“Frank Leaves for the Orient”). His feature length media works have played at major international festivals including the Tribeca, Sundance, Mill Valley, Rotterdam, New York and London film festivals. He was an artist-in-residence at the celebrated TV Lab at WNET/13 and received grants from the NEA, NYSCA, and the Rockefeller Foundation. He brings a curiosity and virtuosity to this collaboration.

MONET CLARK is a performance and video artist. She received her BFA from SFAI and also minored in Holistic Health at the pioneering department at SFSU. She has trained in mind/body medicine, intuitive and energetic healing, and herbal and vibrational medicine. Clark has been exhibiting her performance/video works internationally for 25 years, including with SFMOMA’s Now Playing Series; The Kitchen, NYC; WP8, Germany; Chicago’s International performance Art Festival; AVIFF Art Film Festival Cannes, France and more. Clark’s current artistic philosophy involves crossing her feminist performance/video practice with her lifelong study of spiritual practices and healing disciplines of a mystic nature. Until recently, Clark kept these two areas of prowess separate because of cultural taboos. Clark’s script for NOW breaks these taboos, which she feels are part of the suppression of the feminine principle.

SF CAMERAWORK:

Founded in 1974, SF Camerawork’s mission is to encourage and support emerging artists to explore new directions and ideas in the photographic arts. Through exhibitions, publications, and educational programs, SF Camerawork strives to create an engaging platform for artistic exploration as well as community involvement and inquiry.