

Fire in the Belly

**Dell Marie Hamilton, Joanna Tam & Georden West
with Ena Kantardžić**

Allison Maria Rodriguez, Curator

May 26–May 31, 2020

Live performance evenings on Tues/Thurs/Sat

Annex Exhibition all week

Panel Discussion: Sunday, May 31, 2020 | 3–5PM

FOR PRESS-READY IMAGES CONTACT: Marie Craig at director@fsfaboston.com, (774) 286-1800



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FIRE IN THE BELLY

A week of Performance Art | curated by Allison Maria Rodriguez

BOSTON, MA – Fountain Street Gallery is pleased to launch an annual series of experimental project exhibitions curated by Allison Maria Rodriguez. The inaugural exhibition, ***Fire in the Belly***, will run from May 26th to 31st featuring three beautiful, provocative and political works of performance art by artists Dell Marie Hamilton, Joanna Tam, and Georden West with Ena Kantardžić.

Expanding on her work on citizenship and the corrupt histories of plantation economies, **Hamilton's** "This is All We Have" evokes the absurdity of the current political moment while referencing the legacy of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. Inspired by the recent pro-democracy protest movement in Hong Kong, **Tam's** "I Want to See You" explores personal and public notions of safety and surveillance. **West's** "Watch for Fallen Rock" features two queer bodies literally crawling through the rubble, searching and struggling to obtain a moment of intimacy through a simple touch. These works all possess a sense of urgency and potent immediacy that is both intensely visceral and utterly spiritual.

The live events in the main gallery (Tues/Thurs/Sat evenings) will be accompanied by a week-long show in the gallery annex featuring work by each of the artists. The events are free and open to the public; the gallery will be accepting donations that will go directly to the artists.

Dell Marie Hamilton is an interdisciplinary artist, writer and independent curator whose artist talks, performances and collaborative projects have been presented to a wide variety of audiences in New York at Five Myles Gallery, Panoply Performance Lab and MOCADA, as well as in the New England area at Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, MIT, Boston University, Museum of Fine Arts/Boston, ICA/Boston and Rhode Island School of Design Art Museum. Working across a variety of mediums including performance, video, painting and photography, Hamilton uses the body to investigate the social and geopolitical constructions of memory, gender, history and citizenship. With roots in Belize, Honduras and the Caribbean, she draws upon the personal experiences of her family as well as the folkloric traditions and histories of the region.

Joanna Tam is a Hong Kong-born, Boston-based visual artist and educator. Using video, photography, performance, text and installation, her works examine the issues of migration, citizenship, standardization, construction of national identity, and the notion of home. Tam's works have been exhibited nationally and internationally. She received Best Art Film at Aesthetica Short Film Festival in York, UK (2012), People's Choice Award and Third Prize at Prix de la Photographie, Paris (2009). Tam has been an artist-in-residence at Center for Photography At Woodstock (NY), Boston Children's Museum and Vermont Studio Center. She co-founded and co-operated the exhibition and studio space Howard Art Project from 2011 - 2015. She holds an MFA degree from School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University.

Georden West (pronouns: they, them) is a time-based and installation artist whose work reflects the subculture, history, and daily lives of queer people. West apprenticed in the fashion industry internationally, assisting on shoots for clients including British Vogue, Dior, V Magazine, and AnOther Magazine while at NickKnight's London-based SHOWstudio. Their Oscar-qualified work has screened at Outfest, International Fashion Film Awards, and, most recently, won gold at the 2019 Student Academy Awards. West holds a BA and a Certificate in Advanced Leadership Studies from an unnamed university where they were a Batten Scholar and the recipient of the Annie Terrill Bushnell Leadership and Nicole Kohn Film Awards. They went on to be an Emerson Fellow and received their MFA from Emerson College where they currently serve as an affiliated faculty member.

Ena Kantardžić (pronouns: they, them) is a queer interdisciplinary artist working in gay nightlife who creates work from an immediate perspective. Kantardžić, born a refugee in Germany during the time of the Bosnian War, grew up in Boston. Their work focuses on chaos and the phenomenon of spontaneous order. They are a degree candidate in MassArt's Studio for Interrelated Media (SIM) program.

Curator **Allison Maria Rodriguez** is a first-generation Cuban-American interdisciplinary artist working predominantly in video installation. Her work focuses extensively on climate change, species extinction and the interconnectivity of existence. Through video, performance, digital animation, photography, drawing, collage and installation, Rodriguez creates immersive experiential spaces that challenge conventional ways of knowing and understanding the world. In addition to her art practice, she is a curator, educator and arts organizer. In 2019, she was honored by WBUR's The ARTery as one of "The ARTery 25," a celebration of 25 millennials of color impacting Boston's arts and culture scene. She is a Core Member at Fountain Street.

Exhibition Schedule

May 26–May 31, 2020

Annex Hours (this week): Tue–Sat 12–6PM, Sun 11–5PM, or by appointment at (617) 292-4900

Tuesday, May 26, 7PM: Joanna Tam, *I Want to See You*

Thursday, May 28, 7PM: Dell Marie Hamilton, *This is All We Have*

Saturday, May 30, 6:30PM: Georden West with Ena Kantardžić, *Watch for Fallen Rock*

Sunday, May 31, 3–5PM: Panel Discussion

Image Information

Left: Dell Marie Hamilton, *This is All We Have*, performance, photo by Melissa Blackall

Middle: Georden West, *Introducing Georden West*, film still, Georden sits with dog after completion of tattoo by Ena Kantardžić

Right: Joanna Tam, *Dear Mr. President*, performance, photo by Ashley Wood

About Fountain Street

Fountain Street is a contemporary gallery in the SoWa Art + Design District of Boston. We exhibit a wide array of media from over 30 emerging and mid-career artists in both our main and annex galleries. Founded in 2011, our passion has always been about connecting art seekers and makers through thoughtfully curated exhibitions, juried shows, collaborative projects and installations. Our deep commitment to local artists and frequent rotation of new exhibits offers visitors a fresh and dynamic art experience.

Contact

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