

PULSE MIAMI BEACH CONTEMPORARY ART FAIR

PLAY MIAMI BEACH 2016



The 2016 Miami Beach edition of PLAY was curated by Jasmine Wahi and Rebecca Jampol, Co-Founders and Directors of Gateway Project Spaces. The Miami Beach 2016 edition marked the first time in PULSE's twelve-year history the call for submissions was extended beyond exhibitors and opened to the public. Wahi and Jampol selected 10 video works, from the 800 submissions received, which were exhibited onsite at PULSE Miami Beach from Thursday, December 1 through Sunday, December 4, 2016. Works selected for PLAY, along with 5 short-listed videos, debuted in a **pre-fair collaborative exhibition at Gateway Project Spaces on October 26, 2016.**

The curators were given full creative and thematic license to select works and in the process developed the thesis of "Body As..." investigating the human body's relationship to social constructs and self-determination. "For this year's PULSE PLAY we have curated a constellation of videos stemming from the nuanced ways in which the human body functions as a catalytic object for social constructionism," Wahi and Jampol offer in a joint-statement, "Within Body As... we have designated loose categorizations that exemplify these phenomenon, utilizing each piece dually as a device to express these ideas and to reflect them. **The overarching themes within this vision are: Individual Identity, Collective Identity, and Socio-Political Identity, which exists as the intersection of the personal and collective identities.**"

The selected finalists are all working artists, ranging from the undiscovered and emerging to recognized and represented. The list of categorizations and titles being presented are as follows:

Body as Ritual: Margaret Rorison *Pull/Drift*, 2013, 16mm, 9 minutes

Body as War: Margarita Sanchez Urdaneta, *Mouth Filled With Ash*, 2015, Two-channel video, 21:12 minutes

Body as Prey: Andy Fernandez, *Sandra*, 2016, Two-channel video, 4:46 minutes

Body as Object: Dominique Duroseau, *Addressing Baldwin*, 2016, Single channel video, 1:22 minutes

Body as America: Capt. Larry, *LAZY GENiUS Presents: MiSS AMERiCA*, 2016, Single channel video,

6:45 minutes

Body as Machine: Jon Jacobsen, *Insula*, 2016, Single channel video, 2:25 minutes

Body as Memory: Diana Salcedo, *Garden Conversations*, 2016, Single channel video, 11:41 minutes

Body as Beauty: Rashaad Newsome, *Stop Playin' In My Face*, 2016, Single channel 3-D video

Body as Alien: K. Yoland, *Military Cut*, 2013, Single channel video, 15:13 minutes

Body as Savory: Jessica Posner, *Butter Body Politic (Butterface)*, Single channel video, 10:53 minutes

“These categorizations are not intended to create a unilateral definition for each piece; nor are they meant to be a straightforward assessment of these particular social constructs,” Wahi and Jampol offer, “Some categorizations are intentionally ironic; others intentionally prosaic.” The videos offer a range of expressions of how bodies exist in time and space, beyond the expected or familiar. Take for example, how Rorison inserts gesture and movement into group dynamics, thus creating a new, fluid form of group ritual, or Urdaneta’s *Mouth Filled With Ash*, which meditates on mourning and mass graves through silence and poetic epithets of prose. The black female body and what it means to be black in America is put front and center in Fernandez’s two-channel examination of police brutality, Duroseau’s short, glitchy presentation and Capt. Larry’s highly charged montage. Jacobsen’s cyborg abstraction, a finalist in ShowStudio’s fashion film awards, wonders of life beyond bodies, while Salcedo compares the geometries of bodily movement with that of nature, questioning our inextricable relationship and Yoland asks if humans are the only intelligent life in our galaxy. Finally, Posner unearths society’s perception of perfect bodies in an absurd yet raw performance.

“Through PULSE’s programming platforms we are able to further expand our reach, experiment with new ideas, and partner with industry talent adding to the excitement surrounding each edition,” says director Helen Toomer. “Working with Wahi and Jampol has been a joy. They took on a herculean task and produced a compelling project that we are all very proud of.”

ABOUT JASMINE WAHI

Jasmine Wahi is a Co-Owner/Director of Gateway Project Spaces and the Founder and Director of Project For Empty Space. In addition to these organizations, she also curates exhibitions globally that predominantly deal with issues of cultural identity, intersectionality, and female empowerment.

Ms. Wahi began her art world endeavors in the South Asian art department at Christie’s Auction House, which was followed by positions in several Contemporary Asian art galleries around New York City. In 2008 Ms. Wahi opened up her own consultancy, which produced exhibitions and cultivated emerging artists from around the globe.

Since she first started, Jasmine Wahi has expanded her curatorial ventures to include a multitude of non-profit endeavors and socially engaging exhibitions. In 2010, Ms. Wahi Co-Founded Project For Empty Space (www.projectforemptyspace.org), an organization that creates socially engaging, multidisciplinary art exhibitions and programming that encourage social dialogue, education, and systemic change for cultural tolerance. In 2013, Ms. Wahi and PES began a long-term partnership with Rebecca Jampol of Solo(s) Project House, to create a series of pop-up exhibitions under the moniker ‘Gateway Project Spaces’ which then became Gateway Projects.

ABOUT REBECCA JAMPOL

Rebecca Jampol is an arts educator, gallery director and independent curator based in Newark, New Jersey. Graduating from Rutgers University-Newark in 2008, she took a leading role in furthering the development of the city's burgeoning arts scene. Ms. Jampol moved forward to become the driving force in a myriad of cultural and educational initiatives including: Jajo Art Gallery (08-09); Glocally Newark (2010); The 239 Collective (2010); Rutgers Future Scholars "I am" Program; The NeWWalls Newark Public Art Conference (2014), The Gateway Project Public Art Initiative (2014/present), Portals, Newark, (2016/Present) and most recently, The Newark Downtown District's Entryway Program "Gateways to Newark" (2016).

Her work revolves around positive activation of private and public spaces, creating happenings, exhibitions, and programming that provide a platform for social discourse and engagement. Ms. Jampol is the founder and director of the alternative gallery space & studio residence, Solo(s) Project House (SPH). Artists are invited annually from all over the world to work in Newark. She is the founder and co-director of Gateway Project Spaces, a hub for multidisciplinary creative engagement located in 2 Gateway Center, Newark. She is also the co-director of Project For Empty Space, a not-for-profit organization that creates socially engaging, multidisciplinary art exhibitions and programming that encourage social dialogue, education, and systemic change for cultural tolerance.

ABOUT GATEWAY PROJECT SPACES

Gateway Project Spaces is a hub for multidisciplinary creative engagement in Newark, New Jersey. The three-level facility is split between a highly competitive and curated residency program, a project-based gallery in collaboration with Project For Empty Space, and rentable artist studio/ work spaces.

GPS originally opened its doors in 2012 as a pop-up exhibition space as a collaboration between New York based non-profit Project For Empty Space and Newark based Solo(s) Project House. These temporary shows transformed an otherwise inactive office space into an immersive contemporary art arena for the public to enjoy. In 2015, Gateway Project Spaces formalized its presence by renovating and expanding its footprint and scope of work to include creative workspaces and a new gallery space.

Gateway Project Spaces is home to nearly 60 artist studios and shared spaces for creative professionals. The gallery space functions to provide socially engaging exhibitions and community programs to cultivate critical social dialogues.

Gateway Project Spaces gallery space is a subsidiary of Project For Empty Space, a 501c3 non-profit arts organization.