

Susan Merrick

ARE WE STILL HYSTERICAL?

The term hysteria was first used by Hippocrates to describe movement of the womb, which was assumed to be the reason for changes to female behavior. It remained an official diagnosis until the 20th century and was only removed from the DSM (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders) in 1980. *'Are we still hysterical'* uses footage from workshops the artist is running with women from a refuge. This footage is quiet and dim, playing inside and outside the gallery, only gaining strength (or voice) when bodies pass through its light. Susan's work and practice is founded in research with an emphasis on social power relations. Creating situations for research through residencies, archival visits, collaborations or social engagement she uses dialogue to both inform and become the work. www.susanmerrick.co.uk
statementsinsemaphore.co.uk

BALA

WHO KILLED DIANA?

'Who killed Diana?' is a live art performance that highlights the madness of unpaid care and house work overwhelm. Performance Artist BALA blurs the threshold between the mundane and the ludicrous through engaging in domestic routines that gradually become distorted while trying to carry a giant placenta on her head. This surreal satire is part of an on going art research that investigates live performance as feminist activism. Audience members are welcome to donate money into a money box.

Shira M.Richter

TAMING MY PATRIARCH

Skype 30 minutes Live Encounter from Israel

Still Desperately (Pathetically?) wanting to be understood at the age of 50, I submit my father, a hard core young 79 year old patriarch who is loosing his eyesight, to an educational session. Will hearing me read "Why have there been no famous women artists" make him understand me more? Bring us closer? Or will his deep passion of knowledge challenge me with a new (frustrating) perspective? Shira M.Richter, MotherPolitic Speaker-Artist, Lives in Israel. Mother of twin boys who is trying to navigate the patriarchal indoctrination inherent in the formal educational system.



www.leydengallery.com



Motherhood is often based on ambivalent feelings, happiness, depression, overwhelming pressure and exhaustion, intense love, mind-numbing boredom. Midsummer Madness with the Desperate Artwives looks to reflect upon and tease out these important and frequently dismissed conversations, giving voice to these concerns with a feminist commitment.



www.desperateartwives.co.uk

Susan Swanton/Articulate Elbow
INVISIBLE WOMEN

'Invisible Women' is about being seen and heard or unseen and unheard. It's about being so invisible that you blend in with the walls. It's like talking to a brick wall so I became one. Hybrid performer and artist, Susan Swanton, brings you a participatory, multi-disciplinary, micro art exhibition and performance about visibility, invisibility, blending into the background, being ignored or overlooked. By photographing and interviewing a number of women against wallpaper in wallpaper dresses, a discourse on invisibility is explored. Do you feel invisible? Do you have (in)visibility thrust upon you?
www.articulateelbow.wordpress.com

Katy Howe
THE HAIRY LEGS

"The Hairy Legs" is a live performance intervention involving two performers to be repeated throughout the evening. Katy Howe's former career as dancer and showgirl informs her continuing research into notions of becoming and the ways in which we perform ourselves, our gender and roles that are societally expected of us and, arguably, imposed upon us. Looking for possibilities in transformation and of becoming something other than these narrow confines dictate, can we squeeze though and mutate into our own otherness or are we destined to repeatedly simulate these constrictive performances forever?
www.katyhowe.com

Barbara Touati-Evans
WEBWOMB

"Once upon time, there was a mother creature who made things with wool. Comfortable, soft nests. But also traps."
Barbara Touati-Evans is a visual artist and community arts educator based in Farnborough, Hampshire. Her practise usually focuses around sensory wool installations. She is concerned with issues of connection between and within people. In this specially commissioned work, the artist will be making a wool installation that will be site and time-specific. She will be using a hand crochet technique. The work will be the expression of a mother's conflicting desire for creating protection and destruction, the madness of motherhood.
www.lets crochetuk.wordpress.com
www.facebook.com/LetsCrochetUk

Mieke Vanmechelen
I NON (I)

Stags and humans dressed as stags have been found in Paleolithic cave paintings. Our mystical connection with antlers dates back thousands of years and involves an instinctive bond which has been suppressed. A potent symbol of male strength, their rejuvenating capacity links them with feminine realm of birth, regrowth and the positivity of life's continuum. Horned being and gods embody nature, sexual/creative energy and earth magic. These associations are positive and healthy and should be embraced. I non (I) attempts to transgress boundaries which have been placed over time and open up a pathway to our primal selves.
www.miekevanmechelen.com

Jane Hellings
AND THEY LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER

Retreat into the safety of a childhood den to contemplate the madness of domestic violence and coercive control. In *And They Lived Happily Ever After*, Hellings brings together found and made objects, which chart the tactics used by abusive men to trap women in violent relationships. Hellings, hopes to dispel some of the myths and inaccuracies surrounding this topic, through discussion and debate with visitors, about the gendered nature of domestic violence. Visitors may choose to select an object with which to be photographed. The resulting photos will be shared on the *And They Lived Happily Ever After* Facebook page.
<http://www.janehellings.co.uk/>

Karen Barnett
DAILY MEMORY

The repetition of a daily task and daily routine plays out a visual story of how time passes. A history plays out in front of me.
<https://www.facebook.com/KarenBarnettArt/>

Maja Spasova
LIPSTICK CRUCIFIXION

Video Performance 2'39"
Paint your lips beautiful, red upon red upon red, turn into a clown, layers of red, love, joy, pain, wound, despair. Jesus was a woman.
<https://youtu.be/GPhM-WJa04I>
www.majaspasova.com