

BRETON/MCLEAN GROUP PRESENTS

THE SUBSTITUTES (DO IT YOURSELF SERIES)

FREE

A CO-PRODUCTION WITH NON GRATA + DIVERSE UNIVERSE II INTERNATIONAL PERFORMANCE ART EVENT + STARRING THE ARTISTS TOOMAS KUUSING, AL PALDROK AND TANEL SAAR. (FROM JUNE 2ND TO 9TH 2006, PARNU – TALLINN, ESTONIA)

WWW.BRETONMCLEAN.COM
WWW.NONGRATA.EE

BRETON/MCLEAN STATEMENT

BRETON/MCLEAN GROUP - Our interest with performance is still like the old days, which is seeing art as anti-elitist, having objectives to reverse traditional frontiers between the artist, the exhibition space and the public. Nowadays, our main concern regards our role as 'performer'. We want to redirect the often over reliant use of the body as merely a physical tool, stepping away from its ritualistic roots – its obsession with the self, a body sufferance as a spectacle.

By redirecting, we mean producing performances that conceptualize ideas, moving away from using our bodies as the main formal subject. We want to work from reality with reality, to present an image from life as a re/presentation. Our performances are inspired by the present and past actions of our performance colleagues and other artists who came before us who like us are fighting to keep performance art alive and relevant to the world we live in. We are not interested in what modernity is or was but in what it is becoming or can become.

By developing interactive events that rely less on our physical presence and more on our imagination we are trying to expand the idea of what performance art can be, thus, allowing us freedom to use the body in a more poetic way.

BRETON/MCLEAN'S BIOS

SYLVAIN BRETON – www.sylvainbreton.com – received a BA in Visual Arts from UQAM in 1998. In the past few years, he has been collaborating with various artist collectives in Montreal (Orange/Brown, The Permanente Collection and CAROL BRUNO). This personal way of producing work collectively is motivated by a mutual understanding of modernity, as something living outside of the self, communally, from person to person. Sylvain has presented his work in several different countries throughout Canada, Asia, Europe, and South America, which is at the Gwangju Biennale in South Korea (South Korea, www.gwangju-biennale.org), Galerie SOTODO in Berlin (Germany, www.sotodo.org). In 2005, he was invited to Buenos Aries, Argentina, for a residency program at The Recoleta Cultural Center, as well as Estonia/Finland for The Diverse Universe 1, organized by Non Grata. He was invited a second time to Pärnu, Estonia for a residency program at the Academia Non Grata. In 2006, he will be in Chile for a project at The Santiago Contemporary Art Museum, organized by the Latin-American Biennale Deformes.

LANCE MCLEAN – www.lancemclean.org – is an inter-disciplinary artist from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada who works in collage and performance. He studied sculpture at the Alberta College of Art & Design and furthered his studies at York University.

Most recently, Lance's focus has been on orchestrating interactive performances that encourage bystanders and strangers to work directly with him, incorporating their imagination and intellect to help shape the visual outcome. He often works in collaboration with the artist Sylvain Breton. His work has been shown across Canada and Internationally.

DIVERSE UNIVERSE PRESS RELEASE

ENGLISH - Have you ever witnessed performance art in an important international biennale? Why not? They are happening all the time, behind the shadows of mainstream contemporary art, in small not-for-profit art galleries, at off- site environments and at alternative venues all around the world; organized by groups who understand the importance of performance art and are dedicated to showcasing the present and future of the medium. The smallest parts of these events are often not even published in catalogues, yet many art critics are frothing at the mouth to write about them! Why do you think that is? It's true that performance art is fashionable, as of recent, but still not respected for its continued contribution to contemporary art. Is this because performance art is still considered too risky, too on the fringe of what is valid and acceptable? How many performance artists are present among the painting art stars; the installation, video, design and photography gurus, men and women stuck between the pages of those fat, colorful contemporary art books, very few. And the odd time that contemporary performance art is written about in the mass art publications more often than not they are glossed over as something fleeting, its substance ridiculed because of its ephemeral and often non-commercial qualities. This must change. Contemporary art still must be comfortable, neatly packaged, bound together by some preconceived expectation otherwise it will be ignored by the art authorities, and thus be silenced, hidden away from the masses, ignored like a child standing in a corner. The large establishments that influence mainstream art seem then quite lazy and comfortable with its market purpose: to only support what they see as profitable and a safe bet, content to ignore the reality that performance art is here to stay.

The aim of this performance art festival, DIVERSE UNIVERSE II, is to bring clear experiments, non-conformist ideas, risk, doubt and creativity back to the contemporary art world. The unbreakable front of the DIVERSE UNIVERSE II performers consists of troops from Canada (Québec – Alberta), Chile, Colombia, Estonia, Finland and Germany. This year, the project DIVERSE UNIVERSE II will propose its conceptual umbrella by presenting three separate performance events in Estonia: Art Non Grata, Technobia and Off-topic.

ESTONIAN - Olete Te kohanud performance'it tähtsatel kunstibiennialidel? Kui seal neid ka on, siis ei ole need esindatud kataloogis ja kriitikud ei kirjuta neist. Kui palju performance'ikunstnikke on

esindatud maali, installaatorite, videokunstnike, disainerite ja fotograafide seas paksudes värvilistes kunstiraamatutes? Mitte ühtegi. Kaasaegne kunst peab olema mugav, tarbijasõbralik, ootuspärane, muidu teda ignoreeritakse. Mainstream kunstimaailm on liiga laisk ja mugav. Performance'ifestivali Diverse Universe II eesmärk on tuua kaasaegsesse kunsti tagasi eksperimendid, nonkonformism ja loovus. Diverse Universe II performance'ikunstnikke murdmatu rinne koosneb Eesti, Saksa, Soome, Kolumbia ja Tšiili vägedest. Diverse Universe II on kontseptuaalne raamistik kolmele performance'isünnimusele Eestis: Art Non Grata, Technobia ja Off-topic.
- MARI KARTAU

DIVERSE UNIVERSE II PARTICIPANTS

Erik Alalooga & Friends	(Estonia)
Atieq	(Indonesia)
J. Jackie Baier	(Germany)
Sylvain Breton	(Québec)
Funky Chicken	(Estonia)
Amy Clement	(USA)
C.n.O.P.T. (Randver & Viirelaid)	(Estonia)
Theodor di Ricco	(USA)
Creation de empleio	(Berlin)
Christine Fentz	(Denmark)
Jorge Hidalgo	(Colombia)
KIM Youn Hoan	(SouthKorea)
KIM Kang	(SouthKorea)
Patricio Kind	(Chile)
Rolls Rolf Langhans	(Germany)
Gonzalo Vargas Malinowsky	(Chile)
Catherine Manuchan	(Russia)
Lance McLean	(Canada)
Raul Meel	(Estonia)
Alex Marcelo Mora	(Chile)
Non Grata	(Estonia)
Open Space Performunion	(Berlin)
Erkki Pirtola	(Finland)
Pink Punk	(Estonia)
Rubens	(Estonia)
Meeland Sepp	(Estonia)
Alfredo Sciuto	(Italy)
Siram	(Estonia)
Guido Solar	(Chile)
Sorge	(Estonia)
Liivi Tantaal	(Estonia)
Little Tom	(Estonia)
Ernest Truely	(USA)

THANKS - ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thanks Toomas Kuusing, Al Paldrok and Tanel Saar for their help in THE SUBSTITUTES project, and also to the Non Grata artists organizing DU II, in 2006.



Conseil des Arts
du Canada

Canada Council
for the Arts

We acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts which last year invested \$1.5 million in interdisciplinary work and performance art throughout Canada. Nous remercions de son soutien le Conseil des Arts du Canada, qui a investi 1,5 million de dollars l'an dernier dans l'interdisciplinarité et la performance partout au Canada.

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INSTRUCTION PLAN

A BRETON/MCLEAN GROUP PRODUCTION – STARRING THE ARTISTS TOOMAS KUUSING, AL PALDROK AND TANEL SAAR.

THE SUBSTITUTES – OBJECTIVES

This project involves sending a performance kit in which we get two replacement artists to perform our project for us. It is a project that uses real objects from our life and connecting it with the lives of others. In this performance our role is that of co-directors and although we may not do the physical action we embody the piece symbolically through our personal shoes.

Below is a detailed list on how we would like THE SUBSTITUTES (DO IT YOURSELF SERIES) project to be performed.

In order for this event to happen we will need the collaboration artist TOOMAS KUUSING, AL PALDROK AND TANEL SAAR to stand in this performance as our replacements. They must be present for the piece to be performed at dates and time fixed by the DIVERSE UNIVERSE Organization.

We are also placing AL PALDROK in charge of receiving our mailed packages, purchasing supplies and setting up the installation before the performance starts. He will also be in charge of starting THE SUBSTITUTES performance.

The audience will be asked to respect a certain distance from the performance action. The perfect space is merely a gallery space or outside as a tennis court.

THE SUBSTITUTES – INSTRUCTION RULES



RULE 1 – Two packages will arrive from CANADA, one box from Montreal (Quebec), the other from Edmonton (Alberta).

RULE 2 – The Estonian artist AL PALDROK will receive the two packages between the dates of June 2- 9, 2006.



RULE 3 – The postman will arrive at the Academia Non Grata; AL PALDROK will take his video camera and film the postman for the package exchange.

RULE 4 – The packages are to remain unopened, close, until the performance start.

RULE 5 – When AL PALDROK has confirmed with the artist TOOMAS KUUSING and TANEL SAAR, the performance can begin.

RULE 6 – WARNING: The performance cannot start if the preparation rules 7 to rule 10 are not completed!



RULE 7 – THE SUBSTITUTES project will begin when AL PALDROK sets up the two white chairs at opposite ends of the room, from each other. If the performance is done on a tennis court then the chairs should be set up at opposite ends of the court.



RULE 8 – On each chair, AL PALDROK will place a folded white towel and on the floor in front a large bottle of water for the performers to drink.

RULE 9 – AL PALDROK will set a CD player on the floor beside one of the two chairs. It should be plugged in to a power source and be connected to two loud speakers. It will be used to play THE

SUBSTITUTES soundtrack CD founded in TANEL SAAR'S package.

RULE 10 – AL PALDROK will walk to the center of the space pulling out two knives from his pocket and placing them on the floor. The artists will need them to open their packages.

THE SUBSTITUTES – START

RULE 1 – The artist TOOMAS KUUSING and TANEL SAAR will walk to the centre of the room carrying their boxes with their name on it.



RULE 2 – After placing their boxes on the floor, they will take their clothes off until they are completely nude, leaving their clothes in the centre of the room.

RULE 3 – Once nude, the artists will take their knife and begin to open their packages.

RULE 4 – Inside TOOMAS and TANEL' package will be two pair of shoes for them to wear. Once they have them on, they should walk back to their chair and sit quietly thinking about the meaning of the actual action, thinking about themselves as a 'replacement's'.

RULE 5 – When the CD finishes, Toomas and Tanel will pour their water over their heads in celebration. They can then dry themselves off with their towels and return in the center of the room to put their clothes back on.

RULE 6 – The artist TOOMAS KUUSING and TANEL SAAR will exit the room, calmly. At this point the performance will be complete.



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