CounterPulse ARC Performing Diaspora presents

Dwelling for Unsettling
by Unsettled/Soiled Group

&

Try, Hye!
by Vera Hannush/VERA!

December 8-10 & 15-17, 2022

counterpulse.org/performingdiaspora2022
In the Gallery

The artwork you will view in the gallery is presented in partnership with ArtSpan’s Art in Neighborhood Programs

Sylvie McClelland

Robin Varguez

On view through December 19th, 2022

Explore the gallery virtually & purchase the works online!

You may take photos or videos of today’s show. Professional photography and video footage can be made available upon request to info@counterpulse.org
Dwelling for Unsettling
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“The hard things, the things that we’re not ready for, we don’t avoid them. We just create the ceremony for it.”
—Sangodare Akinwale

Here is an embodied prayer, a gathering, and a playground—you are invited to move, sit, rest, observe, participate, and dialogue.

How do we enter this space? How do our embodied actions shape the space and become shaped by it? What relationships do we form? How do we grieve, rage, commemorate, and collectivize on the land we dwell without permission? How do we give “land back”?  

Dilpreet Anand
is a multimedia projection and meditative sketch based visual artist with ancestral roots in Punjab, currently living on Chochenyo Ohlone land (Oakland, California). They use their creative practice to access healing through flow states, creating immersive pattern work that allows viewers a slowing and subversion of colonized time.

Emily Engelking-Rappeport
loves lists and: mini watercolors, late-night fusion dancing, granite climbs, tidepools, road trips, skinny-dips, type 2 adventures, decorating birthday cakes, kitty cuddles, taking photos of friends, making dinner w/Bryce, circus, skiing, writing letters, poetry, emergent strategy, collaborative art, naps, pothos, ferns, weather, deer, stories, phone calls w/mom.

Cristina M. Ibarra
is a 2nd-generation San Franciscan, theater artist, and educator. They work in high school mental health, exploring spaces for storytelling therapy in SFUSD. Ibarra loves dimsum, skateboarding, and the fog.
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About Us

Unsettled/Soiled Group is a group of East, Southeast, and South Asian diasporic movers, makers, and settlers on Ramaytush and Chochenyo Ohlone land. What brought us together is a shared desire to unlearn and resist Asian settler colonialism on Turtle Island. We aspire to be an open and porous community—we want to build relationships with you.

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Ye Qing Jiang is a creative raised in the Bay Area and currently based in the PNW. Their creative background spans restorative justice organizing, basement kombucha brewing, educational equity community building, Southeast Asian food making, and domestic violence navigating. Ye Qing brings tenacity, presence, clarity, humility, curiosity, and creativity to all their projects.

John-Mario Sevilla hails from Kaʻehu, Paukūkalo, Maui, and is a student of the hula with Kumu Hula Hōkūlani Holt (Pāʻū O Hiʻiaka), Kumu Hula June Kaʻililani Tanoue (Hālau I Ka Pono) and Kawika Alfiche (Hālau O Keikialii). He is the Director at Large of Luna Dance in Berkeley. His folks are from the Philippines.

tashi tamate weiss (she/they) is a storyweaver and energy worker of Japanese and Ashkenazi descent, born and raised on Ramaytush Ohlone land. Their work with words, movement, music and film bends genre/space/time, moving fluidly between the mundane and the mystical. A reiki practitioner, taiko drummer, performance artist and ceremonialist, tashi supports the reanimation of our relationships with the spirit, plant, animal and cosmic realms.

June Yuen Ting dreams of another world that the confines of colonial capitalist modernity cannot hold. June dances, organizes, agitates, and grieves. They want for all those who survived the violence of western imperialism and white supremacy a fighting chance of loving one another against the colonial imperative of heteropatriarchy.
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Dwelling for Unsettling Bibliography

"Settlers of Color and 'Immigrant' Hegemony"
by Haunani-Kay Trask

"Anatomy of a Dancer: Place, Lineage and Liberation"
by Peggy Myo-Young Choy

Asian Settler Colonialism: From Local Governance to the Habits of Everyday Life in Hawaii
edited by Candace Fujikane and Jonathan Y. Okamura

The Colonizing Self, Or, Home and Homelessness in Israel/Palestine
by Hagar Kotef
Try, Hye!
by Vera Hannush/VERA!

This has truly been Step Up: SWANA Edition. This piece comes from a deep longing to connect when the connection has been severed. From standing on the sidelines wishing to join in the Armenian line dances. And with my sweet queer SWANA diaspora teachers, my feet can NOW do it. From the tamzara to the kochari to even some bellydance, I’m amazed at this life-changing journey. Spoiler alert - Hye (“Armenian”) dance was in me all along. Believe the HYEpe!

This piece is for my queer and trans SWANA diaspora community, especially for anyone who has ever felt cut off from cultural knowledge and practices. We can do it, it’s for us, it’s ours, and no one can ever take it away from us. VERA!
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VERA! is a queer Armenian American drag king, dancer, and community activist. VERA! is a member and host of the Rebel Kings of Oakland, a member of SWANA Kings (South West Asian North African drag king collective), board member of Oaklash, the Bay Area Drag Festival, and member of Drag Queen Story Hour - Bay Area. They are the father of the House of Pack and the current Mx. Starsearch 2022.

Basinah is a San Francisco based belly dance performer and instructor. She is a 10 time multi-award winner from state-wide and National competitions in both soloist and groups categories. Basinah is a founding member of Asheq Collective. She can be found performing locally at restaurants and events. For more information and booking, see her website Basinahdances.com IG: @basinahdances

Hrayr Varaz 🌹 is a white, bearded queer cis-male Western Armenian-ist, SF-based twitter-poet dancer linguist, sexpert intensity flow-er, 🌹ftografr 🦋 out now is his first bilingual and bitranscribed poem collection “#twitterpoem”

Fusing culture and Drag together, Anoush Ellah is an Armenian gender-bending Drag pop Princess that is on a mission to infiltrate spaces with Queerness and culture.

Shadybee Diamond - the pronoun is Queen - Queen Shadybee is an Arabic Drag artist all the way from the Middle East. This Queen is a bellydancer and teaches it too. This Queen is also a seamstress, and does wig styling. The art of drag is the hope that Shadybee is living for and it keeps this queen creative, productive, and alive.
Credits

Performed by: VERA!
Hrayr Varaz
Anoush Ellah
Shadybee Diamond
Basinah

Music:
Amr Diab, “Nour el Ein”
Shoghaken Folk Ensemble, “Tamzara”
Aram .mp3, “Tamzara”
Sajida Obaid, “ردح خالة و يا خالة”
Hisham Abbas, “Habibi Dah (Nari Narain)”
Inga & Anush, “Menq Enq Mer Sarere (Heartbeat of My Land)”
Lilit Hovhannisyan, “Armenian Girl”

Acknowledgments

Thank you to my Queer SWANA teachers - Hrayr, Anoush Ellah, Basinah, and Shadybee Diamond - and queer SWANA community and my unbelievably supportive drag community (especially all my children in the House of Pack), and to Counterpulse!

- VERA!
About CounterPulse

CounterPulse is a dynamic movement of experimental art that sparks personal transformation and builds enduring community. We provide space and resources for emerging artists and cultural innovators, serving as an incubator for the creation of socially relevant, community-based art and culture.

counterpulse.org

About CounterPulse’s Performing Diaspora Residency

Performing Diaspora is an incubation residency and commissioning program that supports artists whose work is rooted in a traditional art form, yet is also completely contemporary. Performing Diaspora artists draw on tradition as a radical way to carry the stories of previous lives in today’s time and space.

counterpulse.org/performingdiaspora
The CounterPulse Team

COUNTERPULSE STAFF

Rick Darnell, Associate Director of Neighborhood Arts
Kimi Harvey-Scott, Producing Manager
Ach Kabal, Development & Communications Manager
Zoë Leonard, Operations Manager
Gabriel Nuñez de Arco, Program Manager
Julie Phelps, Artistic & Executive Director
Susan Pleck, Finance Manager
Grey Tartaglione, Communications Director
gg/grisel torres, Technical Director
Ambrose Trataris, Development Director

PRODUCTION STAFF

Lighting Designer/ House Technician: gg/grisel torres
House Technician: Gabriel Nuñez de Arco
House Managers: Eddie Pundys, Arron Ritschell and Mads Leigh-Faire

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