

SIREN ARTS



presented by transformer in Asbury Park, NJ

RIPPLE

July 22, 2021 - August 19, 2021

transformer presents

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5th annual Siren Arts Residency Program &
Performance Art Series

ARTIST TALKS

Wednesdays at 6pm, July 21 - August 18
The Asbury Hotel Salvation rooftop

PERFORMANCE ART EVENTS

Thursdays at 7pm, July 22 - August 19
2nd Avenue Beach, Asbury Park, NJ

Ripple is generously supported by The Asbury Hotel,
Siren Arts' exclusive Hotel Sponsor.

SPECIAL THANKS to the City of Asbury Park, iStar, and Madison
Marquette for their continued support of this innovative programming.

More info at transformerdc.org | [@sirenartsap](https://twitter.com/sirenartsap)

transformer's 2021 Exhibition Series and programs are supported by:
The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, The Suchiko Kuno Foundation,
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Humanities/NEA, The Robert Lehman Foundation, and The Visionary Friends
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PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

July 22

JungWoong Kim & Germaine Ingram (Philadelphia, PA)

July 29

Armando Lopez-Bircann (Washington, DC)

August 5

Monica Jahan Bose (Washington, DC)

August 12

Jaime Sunwoo & Johnnie Cruise Mercer (Brooklyn, NY)

August 19

Eli Barak (Baltimore, MD)

PERFORMANCES take place every Thursday evening at approx. 7pm on the 2nd Avenue Beach, Asbury Park, NJ.

Rain Location:

Asbury Park Boardwalk Casino Breezeway

CURATORIAL

Ripple marks the 5th year of Siren Arts, a unique summer residency program & performance art series created to support exceptional emerging visual artists, to engage audiences in thoughtful celebration of the ocean through innovative contemporary arts practices, and to build deeper awareness on the intersectional effects of climate change.

Siren Arts is an expansion of Transformer – an ‘artist-centered’ non-profit visual arts organization based in Washington, DC. Since June 2002, Transformer has been connecting, elevating, and serving a diversity of emerging artists and arts leaders through multi-faceted exhibition and program platforms within national and international contexts. Working independently and through global partnerships, Transformer presents & advances a rigorous and ambitious roster of artists each year, promoting their evolving ideas and work to growing audiences.

Highlighting artists living within the northeast corridor of DC to NYC, Transformer’s Siren Arts program provides urban-based artists an opportunity to enjoy creative time at the beach, and to expand and present their work to new audiences. Asbury Park’s rich cultural history and centralized location within the northeast shoreline provide fertile context for Siren Arts artists to question and create.

Pursuing different themes each year, Siren Arts: Ripple is supporting a stellar lineup of artists in their creation and presentation of experimental performance art works that address human & environmental interconnectedness.

OVERVIEW

Siren Arts: Ripple artists include: JungWoong Kim & Germaine Ingram (Philadelphia, PA), Armando Lopez-Bircann (Washington, DC), Monica Jahan Bose (Washington, DC), Jaime Sunwoo & Johnnie Cruise Mercer (Brooklyn, NY), and Eli Barak (Baltimore, MD).

Informed and inspired by the sea, and how it moves us physically, spiritually, and emotionally, this year's Siren Arts artists explore themes of communication, environmental consciousness, climate justice, and more through music, dance, ritual, sound, and visual art components. Each artist's 'micro-residency' in Asbury Park includes public artist talks 6pm Wednesdays at The Asbury Hotel's Salvation rooftop space, and public performances 7pm Thursdays on Asbury Park's 2nd Avenue Beach July 21 – August 19.

Transformer's goal with Siren Arts is to empower the participating artists and inspire audiences in both reflection and positive action around ocean conservation, and its implications in all other parts of our lives, while introducing new and best practices within contemporary art.

On behalf of Transformer's staff and Board of Directors, we are so honored to support this year's artists, and to present Siren Arts back on the beach in Asbury Park this summer!

- Victoria Reis, Co-Founder / Executive & Artistic Director, Transformer



JungWoong Kim & Germaine Ingram, *Thunder/Ripple* **PERFORMANCE | THURSDAY, JULY 22**

Through improvised dance and vocalization, and engagement with manipulable structures created by sculptor Kris Rumman, JungWoong Kim, accompanied by Germaine Ingram, channels the emotional weight and sense of urgency bound up in the inevitable dominance of nature in the face of mankind's greed, indifference and hubris. Employing ritual, movement, and song drawn from Kim's immersion in the aesthetics of Korean Shamanism, and Ingram's praxis steeped in Afro-diasporic literary and performance traditions, the piece speaks to the imminence of collective disaster if we fail to exercise collective will and human capacity for humility, preservation and restoration.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

JungWoong Kim immigrated to the U.S. from South Korea a dozen years ago to pursue his practice of dance, choreography, and video editing. His work, which includes solo performance and intensive collaborations with artists from diverse disciplines, merges improvisational movement, improvised sound/voice/music, video, and spatial design. He engages with spaces that have their own stories – in nature, on city lots, plazas, and underpasses, in/atop industrial buildings. He and his family live in Philadelphia, PA.

Germaine Ingram is a Philadelphia PA-based percussive dancer, choreographer, song writer, vocal/dance improviser, oral historian and cultural strategist. She creates evening-length pieces that explore themes related to history, collective memory, and social justice, and designs arts/culture projects that explore and illuminate community cultural history. She collaborates with artists from diverse traditions and disciplines, including jazz/experimental music composers, site-specific choreographers, dance and vocal improvisers, African Diasporic culture specialists, and visual/media artists.



Armando Lopez-Bircann, *Arma.Dura: Coral Gardener*

PERFORMANCE | THURSDAY, JULY 29

As *Arma.Dura*, the artist will reflect on the impacts of tourism and climate change on seashores. They'll focus on current narratives around coral restoration and the ways we can contribute to these efforts. The performance will include wearables and artworks made of calcium carbonate, a chemical derived from seashells.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Armando Lopez-Bircann is a Latinx artist who designs wearable sculptures, digital media and performances. Their practice is framed by immigrant narratives, genderfluid expression and ecofeminist sensibilities. They are currently based in Washington, DC.



Monica Jahan Bose, *Offering*

PERFORMANCE | THURSDAY, AUGUST 5

In *Offering*, Bangladeshi-American artist Monica Jahan Bose draws on rituals using water, turmeric, salt, and saris to speak to climate change, rising waters, and salt incursion into agricultural soil. *Offering* is part of her ongoing climate justice art project *Storytelling with Saris* (started in 2012), which collaborates with women from her ancestral island village and people in the US. The sari, a precolonial garment that is passed down through generations and never discarded, represents continuity and renewal. Bose makes offerings to the wind, sand, and sea towards the goal of renewal and cleansing. With a circle of handwoven climate-themed saris, she creates a healing space, offering the opportunity to increase our connection with the Earth and inspire us to take steps to reduce our carbon footprint and cool down our planet. The public is invited to join the performance.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Monica Jahan Bose is a Bangladeshi-American artist and climate activist whose work spans painting, printmaking, film, performance and public art. Her socially engaged work highlights the intersection of climate, racial, gender, and economic injustice through co-created workshops, art actions, and temporary public art installations and performances. She is the creator of *Storytelling with Saris* (launched in 2012), an ongoing art and advocacy project with her ancestral village of Katakhalī, Bangladesh.



Jaime Sunwoo & Johnnie Cruise Mercer, *Communication Waves*

PERFORMANCE | THURSDAY, AUGUST 12

In *Communication Waves*, artists Jaime Sunwoo and Johnnie Cruise Mercer reflect on the ocean as a means of communication. By examining the history of messages in bottles, Jaime and Johnnie invite the audience to reflect on life, death, love, and loss.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Jaime Sunwoo is a Korean American multidisciplinary artist from Brooklyn, New York working in visual art, theater, film, and public art. Her works connect personal narratives to global histories through surreal storytelling. She studied art at Yale University, and was a fellow for Ping Chong + Company and The Laundromat Project. Her work has been seen at Park Avenue Armory, Abrons Art Center, BAX, JACK, The Tank, Flux Factory, and Art in Odd Places. She has received awards from Queens Council on the Arts, Asian Women Giving Circle, NYC Women's Fund, Brooklyn Arts Fund, and The Jim Henson Foundation for her project *Specially Processed American Me*, a performance on the significance of SPAM in the Asian American community.

Johnnie Cruise Mercer is a queer Black thinker, maker, performer, educator and social entrepreneur based in New York City. He is the founder of TheREDprojectNYC, a multidisciplinary arts ensemble dedicated to the study of movement philosophy, and its communal uses toward building new foundational possibilities. He's shared his work at 92Y Harkness Dance Center, Gibney: Agnes Varis Performing Arts Center, Dixon Place, Danspace Project Inc, The Fusebox Festival, Mana Contemporary, The NADA Conference, Abrons Arts Center, and The Clarice Performing Arts Center's The BlackLight Summit. Johnnie was a Creative Fellow at Ping Chong + Company and is currently an Artist in Residence at Brooklyn Arts Exchange, and New Dance Alliance.



Eli Barak, *Coming to Terms with the Sea*

PERFORMANCE | THURSDAY, AUGUST 19

Coming to Terms with the Sea is a spiritual journey that passes environmental consciousness from father to son. Through play, movement, sound, installation and live performance, Barak and his son will conduct a healing ritual. The piece is based on his performance series *New Clothing*, and is dedicated to themes of displacement and diaspora. Camouflaged, the Baraks will initiate a personal dialogue with the ocean. This performance is an offering, a cry but also the hope to heal the sea.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Eli Barak is a Baltimore based artist. He received his MFA in Fine Arts from the School of Visual Arts in New York City and BFA in Fine Arts and Art Education from Hamidrasha School of Art in Israel; studied graphic design at New York University. Barak identifies as a Jew of Arab descent, his work layers history, culture, and politics. Through performance and installation, Barak embodies objects to investigate both individual and cultural identity. His work explores the idea of the artist as an agent addressing the issue of cultural assimilation. Barak has had exhibitions and performances at YAA Museum in Florida, Lincoln Center, Nars Foundation, Haifa Museum, Petach Tikva Museum, The Performance Biennale in Israel, Fresh-Paint Art fair, Satellite Art Fair, Gallery 39, The Willows. He received an Excellence Award in Fine Arts from the AICF, a Merit Scholarship Award from SVA and a Fellowship Award from the Mildred's Lane residency. His work is part of various collections both at home and abroad. He is currently preparing to participate in Public Digital Art Fund in Moscow, July 2021.

t r a n s f o r m e r



transformer is a Washington, DC based 501 (c) 3 artist-centered, non-profit visual arts organization. Founded in June 2002 by artists & arts organizers, Transformer connects, elevates, and serves a diversity of emerging artists and arts leaders through innovative and multi-faceted exhibition and program platforms. Working both independently and through global partnerships, Transformer provides extensive support to emerging artists in their exploration and presentation of experimental artistic concepts. A catalyst and advocate for artists and artistic experimentation, Transformer works within regional, national and international contexts to build understanding and audiences for new and best visual arts practices.

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