

PERFORMATIVE STORIES

An immersive exhibition infused with theatrical flair and narrative depth

Artist Bios

Dan Hurlin currently divides his time between NYC and Spoleto, Italy. He traces his artistic inspiration to his background in stage and theater. He has taught performance art in its many forms at Sarah Lawrence, Barnard, Bowdoin, Bennington and Princeton. In addition to numerous awards for his theater work, he won a 2014 Rome Prize in visual art. He has had three MacDowell Colony Fellowships, and until 2023, he was on the MacDowell Board. The artwork presented in this show includes a large installation piece featuring a ½ scale human figures in a setting set with props that capture a moment in time. He invites viewers to interpret the implied story and emotion presented. His still-life scenes present posed figures surrounded by objects which suggest an unfolding drama.

Janie Geiser is a renowned experimental filmmaker and multimedia artist. Her films have been screened at major museums including National Gallery of Art, MoMA, the Whitney, the Guggenheim, LACMA, SFMOMA, Centre Pompidou, the British Film Institute, and others. Her films have also screened at festivals including The New York Film Festival, London International Film Festival, Toronto International Film Festival. Her attraction to drama led to her early exposure to “American avant-garde puppet theater” where the importance of motion in storytelling became ingrained in her artistic approach. Now based in CA, she creates cinematic works that demand viewers free their imaginations and allow themselves to be swept away by a flow of objects and ideas. Conventional rules of language and action step aside, and the resulting images reach the unconscious, associative realm of the mind, both stimulating and startling her audience.

Brooklyn based, multi-talented **Maiko Kikuchi** was born in Tokyo where she studied theater and art at Musashino University before earning a master’s degree in sculpture at Pratt in NY. She traces her earliest artistic endeavors to creating stories with miniature figures in the sandbox she played with when she visited her psychoanalyst father’s office. She created an imaginary world which foreshadowed the lively animated daydreams that now underlie the performance pieces she draws, paints, sculpts and enlivens to present as visual monologues. Still figures come to life and transform into moving characters and objects that delight viewers with their versatility. The transformation from a still life picture to a fanciful animation charms viewers with its imaginative and unexpected connections. Kikuchi enlivens apparently ordinary scenes with magical twists that generate beautiful chimerical tales. She has presented her visual art works in several New York City galleries, including Parasol Project, Ca’d Oro Gallery and Hot Wood Art; and she has created work for numerous music videos and album covers.

Dividing his time between New York and Paris, photographer **Jason Gardner** approaches storytelling as a visual anthropologist. Gardner has documented rural Carnivale celebrations for fifteen years in fifteen countries. We are all familiar with the Mardi Gras celebrations in New Orleans, but Carnivale is actually an ancient tradition in villages across continents. He explores aspects of culture involving ritual, music, and pageantry as expressions of the human spirit. Gardner’s artistic sensitivity for color, form and composition is evident in every image. His photography has appeared in The New York Times, The Guardian, Lenscratch, Financial Times, Sunday Times Magazine (UK), This is Colossal, Rolling Stone, Le Parisien, Foto Magazin (Germany), New York Magazine, NPR.org, and SPIN Magazine. His work has also been exhibited at the Stadhaus in Ulm, Germany; Galerie Rachel Hardouin in Paris, Mois de la Photo OFF Photography festival in Paris, Lincoln Center, New Orleans Jazz Fest, the Brazilian Consulate General Los Angeles, as well as the Consulates of San Francisco and NY. In 2024 GOST Books, London published his book *We the Spirits*. Most of the photos to be exhibited in this exhibition appear in *We The Spirits*.