

ALICEBLACK

'DESIRE & MENACE'
Ritual in Contemporary Performance Art
SUMMER FESTIVAL at ALICE BLACK
14 JULY – 14 AUGUST

SOL BAILEY-BARKER | MERVE BASARIR | GIANINNA DELPINO | EVELYN DRACH | JACK GREELEY-
WARD/ANDREW FORD | FRANKIE ROBERTS | CLEMENTINE ROBERTSON

ALICE BLACK, 47 Berwick Street (1st Fl), London, W1F 8SQ



ALICE BLACK is pleased to announce **'Desire & Menace': Ritual in Contemporary Performance Art**, the gallery's first Summer Art Festival which will run from **14 July – 14 August 2018** exclusively at our Soho, London space. 8 visual and performance artists who have developed a heightened sensitivity to ephemeral acts or interventions will be invited to respond to the concept of polarity and duality in human nature. The festival will open to the public with its first immersive experience from 6-9 pm on Saturday July 14, with performances taking place each Thursday; these will be accompanied by a series of related exhibitions.

'Desire & Menace' takes inspiration from Orson Welles statement: *"Everything about me is a contradiction, and so is everything about everybody else. We are made out of oppositions; we live between two poles. There's a philistine and an aesthete in all of us, and a murderer and a saint. You don't reconcile the poles. You just recognise them."*

Under the unifying power of performance art, the festival aims to establish a dialogue over such questions as 'is duality an innate characteristic fundamental to the human condition? Can

ambivalence be a reason for turmoil or a source of inspiration? Can the artistic practice reconcile the opposites within our selves?

Sol Bailey-Barker's interactive charred oak and hand beaten stainless steel sculptures create an immersive installation and soundscape in the space it in habits. The work combines ambient noise and sonic radiation from satellite recordings collected from outer space.

Merve Basarir's "Pussy Protectors" are created from casts of the negative space between her own legs and intend to bridge the distance between spectator and artwork by luring the viewer to touch its surfaces through the sensual effect of colour and form.

Gianinna Delpino will invite us to participate in a transformative performance piece intended to help us understand and alleviate the weight of our thoughts. Musical accompaniment by violinist Oli Grant.

Evelyn Drach a storyteller and mystic said to be unstuck from time, invites the audience to step sideways and explore the depths of ancestry and collective memory via a durational late night performance and immersive experience. Curated by Drach, the exhibition will include works by Anthony Crossfield, Manon Ouimet and Rose McLaren.

Jack Greeley-Ward & Andrew Ford "The World Shadow" is a live improvised musical performance, immersed amongst projections of animated abstract forms which invites the hierarchy of dominance to become slippery. As the performance develops the music takes on a life of its own and it becomes unclear whether the music is supporting the film or vice versa.

Frankie Roberts will conduct the sermon "Even Goodies and Baddies Have Mummies and Daddies" before an 'altar' of projected and painted visual stimulus. The "congregation" is offered a collage of overheard conversations, doctrinal catchphrases and advertising soundbites as Roberts riffs on desire as a consumable product and reflects on its conflict with the rawness of bodily mechanics.

Clementine Robertson invites the us into her earthen realm of curious contradictions, imaginative dreamings, immersive performance and ethno-botanical fantasy. Through a multidisciplinary practice she aims to make timeless connections, weaving stories and painting history.

Most summer festivals are conceived as large outdoor shows, but ALICE BLACK intends to create a unique and intimate event, which resonates beyond the traditional concept of the white cube gallery. The festival will be a platform and an invitation for experiential exploration and the dynamic exchange of ideas.

We look forward to sharing the summer light, and its dark counter part with you all.

Notes to Editors:

Curated by ALICE BLACK | Co-ordinated by Marcela Iriarte & Millie Seal

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