

MoMA PS1

MoMA PS1 PRESENTS NEW SCIENCE-FICTION OPERA BY COLIN SELF AS 2018 SUNDAY SESSIONS COMMISSION ON MARCH 11

LONG ISLAND CITY, NY, February 22, 2018 – For the 2018 VW Sunday Sessions commission, artist and performer **Colin Self** presents *Siblings*, the sixth and final part of The Elation Series, a sci-fi opera encompassing performance, music, sculpture, and video that he has been developing since 2011. The performance will be presented at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. on March 11, 2018, closing day of MoMA PS1's winter exhibitions.

A playful examination of Donna J. Haraway's recent book *Staying with the Trouble: Making Kin in the Chthulucene*, the performance offers new ways of re-configuring our relationship to the earth and its inhabitants in the wake of ecological devastation, foregrounding the necessity of new narrative structures to realize a better world. Structured like a game, *Siblings* functions as a participatory performance, assigning the audience roles and responsibilities. Divided into analysts, activists, archivists, and spies, these groups expand their subjective encounters of text, song, and dance into ruptures of narrative analysis.

Informed by the artist's epistemological research, *Siblings* places a non-biological family at its center. The characters, bound together by curiosity and queer kinship, navigate living collectively on a damaged planet. Self describes how "the worlds I am interested in writing into existence are continuous, irresolute, and fragmented strategies. These strategies are not utopic. They are non-holistic, celebratorily subjective, and ideologically beyond the will to measure."

Presented in collaboration with performers **Lyra Pramuk, Tara-Jo Tashna, Sam Banks,** and **lexi welch**, this new iteration conceived specifically for the VW Dome builds on an ongoing work previously staged at the Donau Festival in Krems, Austria, in 2017. The commission continues themes from prior performances, including *Elation IV*, which was presented as part of VW Sunday Sessions in 2013. *Siblings* corresponds with the completion of Self's sophomore record of the same title, which will be released on RVNG International in late 2018.

Each year, VW Sunday Sessions commissions a new work by an international emerging artist, often introducing their work to a New York audience. Past VW Sunday Sessions commissions have included Trajel Harrell, *Judson Church is Ringing in Harlem (Made-to-Measure)/ Twenty Looks or Paris is Burning at The Judson Church (M2M)*, 2013; Marten Spangberg, *La Substance, but in English*, 2014; Anne Imhof, *DEAL*, 2015; Tobias Madison & Matthew Lutz-Kinoy, *Rotting Wood, the Dripping Word Shuji Terayama's Kegawa no Marii*, 2016; and Hannah Black, *OR LIFE OR*, 2017.

COLIN SELF

Colin Self is an artist and composer based in Berlin, Germany. He creates music, performance, and environments for expanding consciousness, troubling binaries and boundaries of perception and communication. Self has presented work at The Dutch National Opera; Issue Project Room; the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; The Kitchen; and HAU Berlin, among other international festivals and venues. In 2016, he toured internationally with Radiohead as a member of the Holly Herndon A/V Trio. His last opera, *The Fool*, was co-written with Raul De Nieves and presented at The Kitchen in 2017. Self is a Rhizome Commission Grant recipient for his video project ClumpTV, a Queer Art Mentorship Fellow, and was an Eyebeam Resident in 2016. He is a co-founder of queer collective Chez Deep and The Radical Diva Grant, and was a vocalist and performer for the band SSION. Self received his MFA from the Bard Milton Avery Graduate School of the Arts in 2017 and runs a non-utilitarian choir internationally. Self is a 2018 resident fellow at Etopia for FUGA in Zaragoza, Spain, and will be releasing his second record, *Siblings*, on RVNG International in late 2018.

ABOUT VW SUNDAY SESSIONS

MoMA PS1's acclaimed VW Sunday Sessions program welcomes visitors to experience art live and in real time. Embracing performance, music, dance, conversations, and film, the program vividly demonstrates how these art forms can push us to engage with our contemporary world in creative, illuminating ways. With an emphasis on artistic practices that blur and break traditional genre boundaries, the program supports and commissions new work, inviting artists, curators, and other cultural instigators to share their latest projects.

MoMA PS1 offers one of the most extensive museum programs dedicated to live art in the world, representing a core component of the institution's mission since its founding.

#VWSundaySessions

moma.org/sundaysessions

VW Sunday Sessions is organized by Taja Cheek, Curatorial Assistant, MoMA PS1; and Alex Sloane, Curatorial Assistant, MoMA PS1, with Alexandra Rosenberg, Associate Producer.



Volkswagen

VW Sunday Sessions and the VW Dome at MoMA PS1 are made possible by a partnership with Volkswagen of America, who have supported the program for six years since its inception.

MoMA PS1 Background: MoMA PS1 is devoted to today's most experimental, thought-provoking contemporary art. Founded in 1976 as the P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, it was the first nonprofit arts center in the United States devoted solely to contemporary art and is recognized as a defining force in the alternative space movement. In 2000 The Museum of Modern Art and P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center merged, creating the largest platform for contemporary art in the country and one of the largest in the world. Functioning as a living, active meeting place for the general public, MoMA PS1 is a catalyst for ideas, discourses, and new trends in contemporary art.

Hours: MoMA PS1 is open from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Thursday through Monday. Closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

Admission: \$10 suggested donation; \$5 for students and senior citizens; free for New York City residents, MoMA members, and MoMA admission ticket holders within 14 days of visit.

Free admission as a Gift to New Yorkers made possible by the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation.

Directions: MoMA PS1 is located at 22-25 Jackson Avenue at 46th Ave in Long Island City, Queens, across the Queensboro Bridge from midtown Manhattan. Traveling by subway, take the E, M, or 7 to Court Sq; or the G to Court Sq or 21 St-Van Alst. By bus, take the Q67 to Jackson and 46th Ave or the B62 to 46th Ave.

Information: For general inquiries, call (718) 784-2084 or visit momaps1.org.

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