

# MoMA PS1

## MoMA PS1 ANNOUNCES LINEUP FOR 2019-2020 VW SUNDAY SESSIONS PERFORMANCE SERIES

LONG ISLAND CITY, New York, October 1, 2019— MoMA PS1's VW Sunday Sessions will return on November 3 with a series of twelve live programs of performance, activism, and experimentation that foster the development of new work. Four major commissions by Lorelei Ramirez, Emily Allan and Leah Hennessey, Nikita Gale, and Niall Jones span comedy, theater, dance, and sound. Additionally, musician Beverly Glenn-Copeland's US premiere and a series of programs with members of New York City's kink/leather and sex worker communities highlight performance that intersects closely with social justice.

The VW Dome Artist Residency continues as a locus for the development of new work with choreographer Leslie Cuyjet and visual artist Freya Powell. Now in its third year, this residency program for performance-based artists includes open showings where the public can experience artists' works in progress.

Alongside these performances, a series of public programs will be presented in conjunction with the exhibition *Theater of Operations: The Gulf Wars 1991-2011*, which features over 250 works by more than 80 artists to examine the legacy of American-led military engagement in Iraq.

Encompassing performance, music, dance, conversation, and film, the full 2019-2020 season lineup follows below.

---

### **Sunday, November 3, 2019**

**12:00–6:00 p.m.**

#### **Fall Open House: *Theater of Operations: The Gulf Wars 1991-2011***

To mark the opening of *Theater of Operations: The Gulf Wars 1991-2011*, a major group exhibition examining the legacy of recent American military engagement in Iraq, MoMA PS1 presents an afternoon of programming that expands on the themes of the exhibition and the continued global impact of these formative conflicts.

The program will begin with a screening of Werner Herzog's documentary film *Lessons of Darkness* (1992). Shot in Kuwait during the final days of the 1991 Gulf War, Herzog's film depicts the aftermath of violence, focusing on burning oil fields that were set ablaze by retreating Iraqi troops. One of the few filmic representations of the conflict in Kuwait, the documentary provides little context or commentary,

using imagery and the accompanying classical score to suggest the universality of war.

The screening is followed by a series of conversations featuring artists and catalog contributors led by exhibition curators Peter Eeley and Ruba Katrib.

Free and open to the public as part of MoMA PS1's Fall Open House.

**Friday, November 15, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, November 16, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.**

**Lorelei Ramirez**

Comedian and writer Lorelei Ramirez presents new solo work alongside performances by comedians including Morgan Bassichis, Ana Fabrega, Dylan Marron, Julio Torres, Ikechukwu Ufomadu, and Amy Zimmer. Ramirez's work draws humor out of dark, absurdist situations, rooted in an interest in contemporary performance. Ramirez does stand up, directs videos, and organizes variety shows that feature comedians and musicians in their community.

In conjunction with the performances, Ramirez will organize a program of experimental comedic short films.

**Tickets:**

General Admission: \$15

MoMA Members: \$13

**Saturday, November 23 and Sunday, November 24, 2019  
3:00 p.m.**

**VW Dome Artist Residency: Leslie Cuyjet**

During a six-week residency in the VW Dome, choreographer Leslie Cuyjet continues her exploration of transience and memory. Cuyjet's work will respond to the temporality of the VW Dome itself, demarcating time with movement and text to reflect on the past, memorialize the present, and project a future. Her practice scrutinizes personal, cultural, and dance histories to explore her place as a Black woman in the experimental and postmodern dance community. Her choreography and scores are fueled by research that includes a letter writing exchange with her father, an archive of home videos from Black suburbia in the 1990s, and the cultivation of a network of former students of ballet master Marion Cuyjet, her great aunt and a pioneer of dance education for students of color in Philadelphia in the 1950s. Cuyjet presents an open showing of her new work, *Roam*, centered on the intersection of these histories.

Leslie Cuyjet is a dance and collaborative artist based in Brooklyn. Her work has been presented in New York by La MaMa, Gibney Dance, Center for Performance

Research, Movement Research, AUNTS, and Danspace Project's DraftWork series. In addition to presenting her own work, she has worked with artists including Kim Brandt, Jane Comfort, David Gordon, Niall Jones, Juliana F. May, NARCISSISTER, Cynthia Oliver, and Will Rawls.

Free with Museum admission.

**Sunday, December 8, 2019**

**Artist Talk 2:00 p.m., Performance 3:00 p.m.**

**Beverly Glenn-Copeland**

Musician Beverly Glenn-Copeland presents his first-ever concert in the United States in the VW Dome with his band. Glenn-Copeland is a septuagenarian Black trans man who departed the US for Canada in the early 1960s and has not returned since. His unique musical style is an idiosyncratic mix of ambient electronica, jazz, classical, and psychedelic folk, featured on two renowned self-released albums—an eponymous record from 1970 and *Keyboard Fantasies*, a cassette released in 1986.

Glenn-Copeland's US premiere will be accompanied by performances of his music by poet and musician YATTA and screenings of *Keyboard Fantasies: The Beverly Glenn-Copeland Story* by Posy Dixon and a short documentary by the Canadian Broadcasting Company's *In the Making* series. An artist talk precedes the program, moderated by Kyp Malone.

**Tickets:**

General Admission: \$15

MoMA Members: \$13

Artist talk is free with Museum admission.

**Sunday, January 12, 2020**

**2:00 p.m.**

**The Politics of Preservation**

MoMA PS1 presents an afternoon of programming that examines the destruction of Iraqi heritage by the allied forces during the Gulf wars. Scholarship and mainstream attention surrounding the destruction and preservation of cultural heritage in Iraq have tended to focus largely on antiquity. This critical conversation expands this scope to not only address archeological sites and artifacts, but to also focus on the living contemporary culture of Iraq, posing questions about how culture is perceived, instrumentalized, and valued during times of war and occupation. The program will include a conversation with writer and poet Sinan Antoon, among others.

The program concludes with a concert by renowned Iraqi *maqam* vocalist Hamid Al-Saadi performing with the celebrated ensemble Safaafir featuring Amir ElSaffar. The

*maqam* is an integral part of Iraqi culture and is included in UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The *maqam*'s melodies, rhythms, and poetry are a reflection of Iraq's history, geography, culture, and folklore, passed on orally from generation to generation.

Founded in 2006 by Amir and Dena ElSaffar, Safaafir is the only US-based ensemble dedicated to performing the Iraqi *maqam*. They perform the *maqam* in its traditional format, while also incorporating jazz, classical, and other Middle Eastern styles. The group regularly performs with Al-Saadi who is the only person in his generation to have mastered all 56 *maqamat* from the Baghdadi repertoire. Together this group of musicians are intent on securing the survival of the *maqam* at a time when so many elements of this tradition are in danger of extinction.

**Tickets:**

General Admission: \$15

MoMA Members: \$13

**Friday, January 24 and Saturday, January 25, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, January 26, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.**

**Emily Allan and Leah Hennessey, *Star Odyssey***

Playwrights Emily Allan and Leah Hennessey present a newly commissioned work that continues their exploration of “slash” culture, a genre of fan fiction focused on imagined sexual relationships between characters. In *Star Odyssey*, Allan and Hennessey focus on the relationship between Captain Kirk and Spock of the Star Trek universe. Kirk/Spock stories, which first emerged in print in Daine Marchant's short story, *A Fragment Out of Time*, (*Grup #3* September 1974), are erotic fantasies typically written by women for women, often from a queer gaze and unbound by gender norms. These stories were some of the first instances of women engaging directly and passionately in sci-fi fandom, and are considered the precursor for the “slash” genre.

Taking inspiration from the structure of *Star Trek: The Original Series* episodes, *Star Odyssey* is set in a universe of Allan and Hennessey's own creation, and features original characters on a mission of reconnaissance who must grapple with a simplified version of a complex moral or philosophical problem. Building on themes of colonization and imperialism alongside the pivotal relationship of the central pairing, the play uses the camp sensibilities and moral provocations of *Star Trek* to dramatize a contemporary ethical quandary. Created specifically for the VW Dome, the play features original music and an ensemble of Allan and Hennessey's frequent collaborators.

Allan and Hennessey are playwrights, directors, and actors best known for their web series *Zhe Zhe*, a camp satire of New York City's performance scene, and for their recent two-person show *Slash*, which also considered “slash” culture and homoerotic fan fiction about iconic celebrity and fictional pairings.

**Tickets:**

General Admission: \$15

MoMA Members: \$13

**Sunday, February 9, 2020**

**2:00 p.m.**

***Kink Out: SPACES***

Kink Out is an event series organized by a revolving team of artists, organizers, and producers that celebrates and builds alliances between New York City's kink/leather, and sex worker communities. Though Kink Out's programs take many forms, their activities are continually incited by art, conversation, and activism.

For decades, kink/leather and sex worker communities have been forced to seek refuge underground and create havens for themselves out of the public eye, often in nightclubs or bars. Yet even these safer spaces remained under threat of police raids and public harassment, as well as a lack of acceptance in mainstream culture, which prompted these communities to embrace the virtual realm of the internet as a place to network, build alliances, and practice safely. In light of recent legislation that places these online communities at risk, safe virtual and physical spaces are even more urgently needed.

Over the course of a six-week residency, members of the kink/leather and sex worker communities will imagine ways to create, reclaim, and transform the virtual and physical spaces they occupy, using the VW Dome as a hub for discussions, workshops, and organizing, as well as public events.

The residency culminates in *Kink Out: SPACES*, a large-scale program that features performances, screenings, and immersive presentations from local BDSM practitioners, as well as discussions on safe practices, healing, and activism—all of which center the creativity, courage, and cultural significance of the city's kink/leather and sex worker communities.

*Kink Out: SPACES* is co-organized by Yin Q, kd diamond, and Bridget Conway-Taylor.

**Tickets:**

General Admission: \$15

MoMA Members: \$13

## **February 2020**

### **Nikita Gale, *AUDIENCING***

Alaska-born, LA-based artist Nikita Gale presents a new work drawn from a background in archeology and music. Gale's practice focuses on the relationships between material culture, social and political structures, and sound. For this commission, Gale creates a site-specific performance environment in the VW Dome activated by collaborative performances exploring the subjects of exhaustion, audience, listening, and refusal.

Dates and further details to be announced.

## **Sunday, March 1, 2020**

**2:00 p.m.**

### **Closing of *Theater of Operations: The Gulf Wars 1991-2011***

To mark the closing of *Theater of Operations: The Gulf Wars 1991-2011*, VW Sunday Sessions presents an afternoon of film, performance, presentations, and music.

The program will begin with a second screening of Werner Herzog's documentary, *Lessons of Darkness* (1992). Following the film, New York-based artists in *Theater of Operations* will respond to and expand upon the exhibition's themes with performances, readings, and presentations.

Free with Museum admission.

**Friday, March 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 15, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, March 14, 2020, 12:00–6:00 p.m.**

### **Niall Jones**

Niall Jones is a performance and installation artist living and working in New York City. For this new commission, Jones creates an immersive performance that explores ideas of site, proximity, and sociality. Reflecting an ongoing fascination with impermanence and legibility, Jones constructs an uneven topography within the VW Dome as an active site for unstable matter.

Jones has presented work at New York Live Arts, The Invisible Dog Art Center, Gibney Dance Center, Movement Research, Danspace Project, Abrons Art Center, Dance Theater Workshop, JACK, BAAD!, Center for Performance Research, New Museum, and The Kitchen.

### **Tickets:**

General Admission: \$15

MoMA Members: \$13

Access on Saturday, March 14 is free with Museum admission.

**Saturday, March 21 and Sunday, March 22, 2020**

**3:00 p.m.**

**VW Dome Artist Residency: Freya Powell**

During her three-month residency, Freya Powell continues developing her performance project *Only Remains Remain*, which uses the structure of a Sophoclean chorus to create an elegy for the hundreds of unidentified migrants buried in mass graves in Sacred Heart Cemetery in Brooks County, Texas. Working with an ensemble of 15 performers, Powell explores the mournful potential of the voice. Through a collaborative process, the work utilizes pitch, intonation, breath, movement, and silence to embody a contemporary tragedy drawn from the story of *Antigone*. An in-process presentation marks the culmination of the residency.

*Only Remains Remain* is made possible, in part, by Queens Council on the Arts with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

Free with Museum admission.

**Saturday, March 28 and Sunday, March 29, 2020**

**12:00–6:00 p.m.**

**Come Together: Record Fair and Music Festival**

MoMA PS1 and iconic record shop Other Music present the fourth annual Come Together: Record Fair and Music Festival, offering a record fair featuring recent and rare releases, merchandise, and ephemera from more than 75 record labels and other vendors. Come Together also includes live performances, film, workshops, and panels, that celebrate the interactive ecosystem of both local and international music communities. Reasserting the central and essential role that these communities play in both the creation and consumption of new sounds, Come Together recasts the fading record store experience for the current moment.

**Tickets:**

Day Pass (Saturday or Sunday): \$10 advance, \$15 day-of

MoMA Members: \$8 advance, \$12 day-of

Festival Package (Saturday and Sunday): \$18 advance, \$25 day-of

MoMA Members: \$16 advance, \$20 day-of

---

**ABOUT VW SUNDAY SESSIONS**

MoMA PS1's acclaimed VW Sunday Sessions performance series welcomes visitors to experience and participate in live art. Since its founding in 1976, MoMA PS1 has offered audiences one of the most extensive programs of live performance in the world. VW Sunday Sessions highlights artists responding to contemporary social and political issues through a wide variety of creative and critical lenses. Encompassing

performance, music, dance, conversation, and film, the series develops and presents projects by established and emerging artists, scholars, activists, and other cultural instigators. With a focus on artists that blur and break traditional genre boundaries, VW Sunday Sessions embraces the communities in New York City that create and sustain artistic practice.

Since 2012, VW Sunday Sessions has commissioned new work by artists including Trajal Harrell, Mårten Spångberg, Anne Imhof, Hannah Black, Colin Self, Jeremy Toussaint-Baptiste, Doreen Garner, and Jonathan González. Additionally, the VW Dome Artist Residency offers a platform for creative development and experimentation for artists at all stages of the creative process.

**#VWSundaySessions**  
**[moma.org/sundaysessions](http://moma.org/sundaysessions)**

VW Sunday Sessions is organized by Taja Cheek, Assistant Curator, and Alex Sloane, Assistant Curator, and is produced by Alexandra Rosenberg, Producer, with Chris Masullo, Production Coordinator.



**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 since its inception.

Dance programming as part of VW Sunday Sessions at MoMA PS1 is supported in part by the Mertz Gilmore Foundation.

---

### **ABOUT MoMA PS1**

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](http://momaps1.org).

**Press Contact:** Molly Kurzius, (718) 392-6447 or [molly\\_kurzius@moma.org](mailto:molly_kurzius@moma.org)

**General Press Inquiries:** [press\\_momaps1@moma.org](mailto:press_momaps1@moma.org)

For downloadable high-resolution images, visit [moma.org/press](http://moma.org/press).