

# PS1

## SUMMER AT MoMA PS1 FEATURES PERFORMANCES, MUSIC, EXHIBITIONS, AND EXTENDED EVENING HOURS ON FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

**NEW YORK, June 9, 2022**—This summer at MoMA PS1, experience programs across the campus that explore urban ecologies. With extended hours until 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays through October, visitors will have more time to enjoy PS1's outdoor Courtyard and participatory programs across the campus. General admission continues to be free for all New Yorkers made possible by The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, and tickets to all summer programs are also offered for free in recognition of the importance of culture to civic life in New York.

A number of initiatives taking place over the next few months highlight PS1's commitment to issues of land and locality as they intersect with art and grassroots organizing. The exhibition *Life Between Buildings* explores how artists have unlocked the communal potential of New York City's interstitial spaces; the gardening activities of **jackie sumell** and the **Lower Eastside Girls Club** unfold over the summer months in *Growing Abolition*; a *Homeroom* presentation by the **Queensbridge Photo Collective** traces the transformation of Long Island City; **Alex Tatarsky's** performance focused on "rot" as a necessary organic process; the debut of *After the Fire*, a participatory mural project on PS1's exterior walls, speaks to possibilities of renewal; and a new performance by **Poncili Creación** features large-scale puppets suspended by cranes above the Courtyard enacting blooming flowers. In August, music returns to PS1 with **Summer Fridays**, three evenings of DJ performances featuring a selection of new artists as well as Warm Up alumni. Also on view is **Deana Lawson**, the first solo museum survey dedicated to the work of the celebrated photographer. PS1's full summer schedule follows below.

### **jackie sumell & The Lower Eastside Girls Club: *Growing Abolition***

April 23, 2022–Fall 2022

The second year of a collaboration between jackie sumell, the Lower Eastside Girls Club, and MoMA PS1, *Growing Abolition* is a multipart project investigating connections between ecology and prison abolition. Developing gradually from spring to winter, *Growing Abolition* unfolds around a greenhouse designed by sumell and installed in the side Courtyard of PS1. An offshoot of sumell's celebrated *Solitary Gardens* project, the greenhouse is scaled to the footprint of a solitary confinement cell from a maximum security prison. The architectural plans for the greenhouse were informed by the lived experience of a man named Jessie, who is incarcerated at ADX Florence, a supermax prison in Colorado. sumell has been collaborating and growing with Jessie for seven years as part of *Solitary Gardens*. Transforming a space of confinement into one of possibility, the greenhouse offers occasion for both growing and learning, through plantings, conversations, and workshops with interns from LESGC. *Growing Abolition* will expand organically over the spring and summer: plants will grow and be added; vines will creep up the courtyard's concrete walls; and seedlings will find new homes in community gardens throughout the city. The project culminates in an

installation designed by the LESGC girls in PS1's Homeroom in September 2022. *Growing Abolition* is presented as part of *Life Between Buildings*, a group exhibition running from June 2, 2022 through January 16, 2023.

*Growing Abolition* is presented as part of *PS1 COURTYARD: an experiment in creative ecologies*. It is also part of *Life between Buildings*, a group exhibition on view on the third floor of MoMA PS1 from June 2, 2022, to January 16, 2023.

All projects presented as part of *PS1 COURTYARD: an experiment in creative ecologies* are supported by funding from the Mellon Foundation.

Generous support for *jackie sumell and the Lower East Side Girls Club: Growing Abolition* is provided by the Art for Justice Fund, a sponsored project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors.

*Life Between Buildings* is made possible by Allianz, MoMA's partner for design and innovation.

Allianz is proud to support a series of programs at The Museum of Modern Art and MoMA PS1 that share new visions for a more sustainable future.

Significant support is provided by the Contemporary Arts Council of the Museum of Modern Art, with additional support provided by Jane and John Comfort.

### ***Life Between Buildings***

June 2, 2022 - January 16, 2023

This summer, MoMA PS1 presents *Life Between Buildings*, an exhibition that explores how artists have unlocked the communal potential of New York City's interstitial spaces—"vacant" lots, sidewalk cracks, traffic islands, and parks, among others. Inspired by the vibrant history of community gardens, *Life Between Buildings* brings together work by 15 artists and collectives, and features drawings, photographs, sculptures, multimedia works, and performances created from the 1970s through the present day. On view from June 2, 2022 to January 16, 2023, the exhibition includes work by Tom Burr, Mel Chin, Danielle De Jesus, Niloufar Emamifar, Becky Howland, David L. Johnson, Gordon Matta-Clark, Margaret Morton, Aki Onda, Poncili Creación, POOL (Performance On One Leg), Matthew Schrader, jackie sumell & The Lower Eastside Girls Club, and Cecilia Vicuña.

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### ***Still Like Air I'll Rise: Queensbridge Photo Collective in Homeroom***

June 2–September 23, 2022

Reflecting upon MoMA PS1's location in Long Island City, Queens, the Queensbridge Photo Collective activates Homeroom with *Still, Like Air I'll Rise*, which takes its name from Maya Angelou's poem reflecting on hope and perseverance in the face of racial and class-based discrimination. Founded in

2019, the Queensbridge Photo Collective is a group of accomplished women photographers, formed with support from 5 Corners Collective, Inc., a non-profit that works with community groups to teach and exhibit photography. All members are over the age of 65 and long-time residents of the Queensbridge Houses, and a few are also PS1 elementary school alums. Utilizing photography, archival research, memorabilia, and oral histories, the activation centers the lives of the Collective members, who all grew up in the neighborhoods around PS1. Their personal stories highlight the resilience of community through time, and the role art and cultural expression have played in shaping the identity of Queensbridge Houses and its residents. In residence at PS1 for the duration of the activation, these Collective members will host collaborative public programs with neighboring organizations and community members, preserving their own histories while passing along their knowledge, skills, and artistry for others to keep and expand upon for years to come.

*Homeroom* activations are supported by funding from the Mellon Foundation.

**Alex Tatarsky, *Dirt Trip***

Friday, June 3 & Saturday, June 4 at 7 p.m., Sunday, June 5 at 4 pm

Alex Tatarsky presents the New York premiere of their solo performance, *Dirt Trip*, including a secret, site-specific installation of improvised sculpture and objects culled from an artistic “waste audit” of MoMA PS1. A trained clown and obsessive compost-lover, Tatarsky shares revelations from ongoing research into the territory between humor and humus. Linking American pop-cultural angst over the evil clown to efforts to banish garbage and urban blight, Tatarsky examines our fears of figures and substances which suggest transitional, ambiguous, and disordered states. Contents may include: the ballad of an unemployed court jester who desires to be a rotting vegetable; a lecture that decays into a heap of dirt.

**Aki Onda: *Cassette Memories in the Lower East Side***

June 11 at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., June 12 at 3 p.m.

Free with RSVP

*Cassette Memories* (2004–ongoing) is a site-specific performance by the Japan-based artist and composer Aki Onda, presented in several community gardens in the Lower East Side. For each iteration of the performance, Onda plays field recordings he considers “sound memories,” collected over the last three decades. The performances occur at places saturated with their own memories; on this occasion, Onda will lead the audience on an auditory tour through multiple gardens in the Lower East Side, including Green Oasis Community Garden and La Plaza Cultural de Armando Perez Community Garden. *Cassette Memories* is an archaeological dig for the history, psyche, and energy of these spaces. The performances are presented in conjunction with *Life Between Buildings*, a group exhibition at MoMA PS1, which features Onda’s installation *Silence Prevails: Lower East Side Community Gardens During the Pandemic*.

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### **Poetry in the Courtyard: Readings around *Life Between Buildings***

July 9 at 3 p.m.

Free and open to the public; RSVP encouraged

Taking place in the museum's Courtyard, MoMA PS1 presents an afternoon of readings by poets, writers, artists, and gardeners. Reflective of—and reflecting on—the ways that the city seeps into language, the speakers explore the intertwined histories of artmaking and struggles for common and green space in New York City. This event is presented in conjunction with the exhibition *Life Between Buildings*.

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### ***After the Fire***

Opening July 23, 2022

*After the Fire* is a participatory mural project led by artists Nanibah Chacon, Tatyana Fazlalizadeh, and Layqa Nuna Yawar that will culminate in a large-scale mural on the wall of MoMA PS1's Courtyard. The project brings an experimental, participatory, and collaborative approach to the entire process of mural-making, beginning with a series of workshops with three local Queens community groups: Transform America, Make the Road, and members of the Shinnecock, Unkechaug, and Matinecock Nations. These workshops sought not only to share ideas, but to break bread and build connections between community members, inviting collaboration at every stage of the process. Participants discussed elements of society that they would leave behind in service of imagining a more just world, asking: What does freedom and well-being look like? How do we nurture safety for everyone? How are Black, Brown, and Indigenous community members already engaged in building safer communities? Emerging from these conversations was a recognition of the ways in which the pandemic laid bare existing racial, environmental, and economic disparities. Participants imagined new pathways forward rooted in communal safety, collective caretaking, and regeneration. These conversations directly informed the vision for *After the Fire*, which imagines rebirth following rupture.

All projects presented as part of *PS1 COURTYARD: an experiment in creative ecologies* are supported by funding from the Mellon Foundation.

Significant support for *After the Fire: Mural Project*, *Courtyard Coalition*, and *Rashid Johnson: Stage* is provided by Bloomberg Philanthropies.

***Growing Abolition: A Tea Party***

July 23 at 3 p.m.

Free and open to the public; RSVP encouraged

This “abolitionist tea party” accompanies *Growing Abolition*, an ongoing collaboration between artist jackie sumell and The Lower Eastside Girls Club unfolding around a greenhouse installed in the side Courtyard of MoMA PS1. For this event, mobile “apothecarts” designed by sumell—housing various herbs, teas, and plants—will occupy the public plaza outside of PS1’s main entrance. In conversation with sumell and girls from the Lower Eastside Girls Club, visitors are invited to circle up, taste, feel, and smell different plants, many of which are considered “weeds.” Plants, as healers and storytellers, have historically been key to forms of resistance—used, for example, to map significant places along the underground railroad. An abolitionist tea party will ask: how does the natural world endorse abolition as a strategy for liberation? This event will take place in conjunction with the unveiling of *After The Fire*, a mural project led by Tatyana Fazlalizadeh, Nanibah Chacon, and Layqa Nuna Yawar.

**Poncili Creación, *No gods only flowers***

Friday, July 29 at 7 p.m. & Saturday, July 30 at 4 p.m.

Free Tickets

Poncili Creación will present *No gods only flowers*, a visual poem enacted by larger-than-life puppets suspended from construction cranes high above the Courtyard, with live musical accompaniment. *No gods only flowers* vigorously interrupts the urban hardscape of Long Island City with the strength of a flower bursting through pavement to bloom in the summer sun. Liberating the boom crane from its typical activity of heavy lifting in redevelopment, Poncili Creación fantastically animate, in real time, another kind of growth process: photosynthesis. Since 2012, the collective—brothers Pablo and Efrain Del Hierro, and their collaborators—have made spontaneous processions and performances informed by their prior work in dance and experimental theater, and articulated through colorful and manipulable sculptural forms handmade from salvaged polyurethane foam and fabric. Their practice of radical puppetry is an energetic celebration of life, imagination, and absurdity amidst and against dire everyday circumstances. The puppets will remain on view in MoMA PS1’s galleries following the performances as part of *Life Between Buildings*.

**Book Launch: jackie sumell’s *The Abolitionist Field Guide***

August 5, 6 p.m.

Free with RSVP

Marking the release of Jackie Sumell's *The Abolitionist Field Guide*, MoMA PS1 and Artbook host a conversation with Sumell at Artbook @ MoMA PS1. *The Abolitionist Field Guide* is an interactive workbook and reader that teaches abolitionist strategy through the lived experience of plants, their natural relationships, and the stories they tell. "Sometimes those teachings are direct perceptions, sometimes they are metaphors," Sumell writes. "Abolition, like growing a plant, requires daily attention and care." This event accompanies Sumell's *Growing Abolition*, a multifaceted project in collaboration with the Lower Eastside Girls Club unfolding around a greenhouse located in PS1's Courtyard.

### **Summer Fridays**

August, 12, 19, 26, 5–9 p.m.

Free with Museum Admission; Limited capacity - advance booking strongly recommended

On three Friday evenings in August, MoMA PS1 will host a curated series of DJ sets in the Courtyard presented free with Museum admission. This summer music offering will feature new performers and veteran acts from Warm Up while the signature music series is reimagined for 2023. PS1 will remain open until 9 p.m., offering evening access to exhibitions and outdoor installations as well as special cocktails and bites from Mina's. Lineups to be announced soon.

### **ABOUT MoMA PS1**

MoMA PS1 champions art and artists at the intersection of the social, cultural, and political issues of our time. Providing audiences with the agency to ask questions, access to knowledge, and a forum for public debate, PS1 has offered insight into artists' diverse worldviews for more than 40 years. Founded in 1976 by Alanna Heiss, the institution was a defining force in the alternative space movement in New York City, transforming a nineteenth century public schoolhouse in Long Island City into a site for artistic experimentation and creativity. PS1 has been a member of New York City's Cultural Institutions Group (CIG) since 1982 and affiliated with The Museum of Modern Art since 2000.

**Hours:** MoMA PS1 is open from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Thursday through Monday, and until 8:00 p.m. on Saturday. Closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

**Admission:** \$10 suggested admission; \$5 for students and senior citizens; free for New York State residents and MoMA members. Free admission for New York State residents is made possible by The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation. Tickets may be reserved online at [mo.ma/ps1tickets](https://mo.ma/ps1tickets).

**Visitor Guide:** Discover even more from PS1 with the Bloomberg Connects app. Read wall text, hear directly from artists, and uncover the building's history with

this multimedia visitor guide. This digital experience is made possible through the support of Bloomberg Philanthropies.

**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 [moma.org/ps1](http://moma.org/ps1). Press Contacts: Kai Mora, [kailyn\\_mora@moma.org](mailto:kailyn_mora@moma.org); 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)

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