one INSTITUTE

circa QUEER HISTORIES FESTIVAL

LACE Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions

PAM Performance Art Museum

ACTION = LIFE

October 2, 2026 at 6 PM

STORIES: The AIDS Monument

647 N San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069

As part of the *Circa: Queer Histories Festival* presented by One Institute, **Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE)** and the **Performance Art Museum (PAM)** present a marathon of five-minute performances at STORIES: The AIDS Monument in West Hollywood under the theme of *ACTION = LIFE*.

Featured performers include **Jerri Allyn**, **Ajani Brannum**, **Au Chung aka Dacity**, **Gabrielle Civil**, **Kevin Emilio Contreras**, **Ben Cuevas**, **Patty Gone**, **Sebastian Hernandez**, **Marcus Kuiland-Nazario**, **Sophia le Fraga**, **Badly Licked Bear**, **Caleb Luna**, **Page Person**, and **Sheree Rose**. Representing multiple generations and perspectives, these artists present site-specific interventions that range from spoken word, poetry reading, and performative and poetic actions that respond to the Monument and the history of queer activism. The program coincides with Fall of Freedom, a national call for creative resistance and amplification of all struggles against repression and state violence.

ACTION = LIFE is presented in conjunction with *High Performance: A 2-Year Conference (2025-2027)* initiative, dedicated to the Los Angeles-based magazine that was the first international art publication devoted exclusively to performance art, and its enduring influence on contemporary art and society. Looking specifically at queer artists featured in *High Performance* who created work around queer activism and younger artists inspired by this work, these short performances invite audiences to gather and engage in both oral histories and performance.

Support for this program is provided by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

About the Performers

A citizen of the world, **Jerri Allyn** is an activist artist, educator and scholar interested in civic engagement, exploring themes of social justice and empowerment in her projects. S/He often questions power structures, challenges gender norms, and addresses issues related to women's labor, sexuality, queer rights, and resolving conflicts creatively.

Jerri's artwork is often in a narrative, storytelling form. S/He strives for aesthetic innovations, incorporating contemporary community insights, historical facts, and satiric wit. Frequently collaborating s/he utilizes diverse mediums, including site-oriented performance and installation art, sculptural tableaus; audio, video and billboards; artists books, graphic multiples and page art - adapting each to suit theme and intention.

Allyn's interdisciplinary projects provide a forum for multiple voices, moving fluidly between art settings, academia, and targeted neighborhood sites. S/He strategically builds connections with communities through shared interests to cross pollinate audiences - raising awareness, inviting dialogue, and fostering social change. Allyn's been commissioned and received cultural grant funding for 30+ years.

Ajani Brannum is an undisciplinary artist and researcher whose practice is a meditation on performance, embodiment, and selfhood. Through choreography, text, and sound, they reimagine the ancestral wisdoms of myth, folklore, teaching, and prayer. Ajani has created spaces of encounter with REDCAT, ODC, Human Resources Los Angeles, Materials & Applications, Highways Performance Space, Los Angeles Performance Practice, in classrooms, on tabletops and screens, and when no one is looking. Born in Anchorage, Alaska, they hold an AB in English and a Certificate in Dance from Princeton University, and a PhD in Culture and Performance from UCLA.

Dacity is an LA-based drag performer, writer, and LGBTQIA+ advocate whose work blends performance, storytelling, and queer world-building. Since debuting in 2023, Dacity has received two California College Media Awards, released original music, launched the queer podcast Dyzz Bytch, and founded TRANS•FORM. With a background in journalism and political education, their work centers uplifting unheard queer voices and exploring identity through performance and media.

Gabrielle Civil is a black feminist performance artist, poet, and writer, originally from Detroit, MI. She has premiered over fifty original performances worldwide in galleries, theaters, classrooms, and the streets. Recent work includes *Black Weirdo School Psychic Defense Club* at *RESILIENCE* presented by LACE, *Black Weirdo School Poetry Club* at Crawl Space in LA, *Black Weirdo School (Lorde Remix)* at the Audre Lorde Symposium in New York, and *Black Weirdo School (Pop Up Critique)* at PNCA in Portland. She is the author of five performance memoirs, most recently *In & Out of Place*, which documents her time living/creating in Mexico. Her writing has appeared in *New Daughters of Africa*, *Kitchen Table Translation*, *Migrating Pedagogies*, and *A Mouth Holds Many Things*. Her performance videos have been exhibited internationally and online. She teaches in the community and at the California Institute of the Arts. The aim of her work is to open up space.

Kevin Emilio Contreras (b. 1992) is a Queer Peruvian American visual artist from Los Angeles; his practice spans photography, video art, and performance. He is in his final year at USC Roski, where he is a candidate for the Masters in Fine Arts. During the course of his first year, he produced *In Inca Kola We Trust* (2025), a video performance work; as well as the *Astral Imaginal* trilogy, a cycle of three short video works shot on Super 8 and 16mm film stocks. Topically, his work poses questions about time, space, the lost and nearly-forgotten Hauntology of our physical world; filtered through a Queer Latinx lens of spiritual experience and expression.

Ben Cuevas (he/they/she) is a multidisciplinary artist working between media. In their work, Cuevas uses sound, performance, installation, sculpture, and often textiles to explore queerness, identity, and the body. Find them on Instagram @BenCuevas_Art and @Aesthetic.All.Over.

Patty Gone is a poet, artist, and scholar. Her writing has appeared in The Believer, BOMB, Hyperallergic, and Art Papers. She has performed or exhibited at the Queens Museum, Locust Projects, Human Resources, and The Poetry Project. She lives in Los Angeles.

Sebastian Hernandez (b. 1990, Los Angeles, works and lives in Los Angeles) is a multi-disciplinary trans femme artist who received a B.A. in both Art Practice and Dance and Performance Studies from the University of California Berkeley. Sebastian explores making art with mediums like movement, sculpture, performance, photography, creative writing and DJing. Hernandez works with and through feminist, queer, indigenous and gender theoretical frameworks as well as notions of collectivity to generate works that complicate Mexican and Chicano narratives in the contemporaneous social imagination. Their art making is embedded in personal narrative, their indigenous Mexica (Aztec) ancestry, queer club culture and the history of the brown body in relation to the U.S.-Mexico borderland.

Los Angeles native **Marcus Kuiland-Nazario** is an interdisciplinary artist, arts educator, performance curator and producer. Kuiland-Nazario's works are long-term research based cross-genre projects exploring extreme states of emotion such as grief, anger and loss influenced by the cultural and spiritual traditions of the African Diaspora. He is a founding artist of 18th Street Arts Center and Highways Performance Space as well as co-founder of Oficina de Proyectos Culturales, a contemporary art center in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico and LA Community Health Project, a harm reduction street based needle exchange program. His performance works have been included in national and international festivals including the Rapture Festival, ICA London, London; the Rompeforma Festival, San Juan, Puerto Rico; and Pacific Standard Time LA/LA, Los Angeles. Kuiland-Nazario is the recipient of the 2020 Santa Monica Artist Fellowship award.

Sophia Le Fraga uses objects, images, and poems to explore how language accumulates, circulates, and leaves traces over time. She has exhibited and performed at The Getty Center, JOAN, MOCA, MoMA PS1's "Greater New

York," Artists Space, Camden Arts Center and PERFORMA. Le Fraga is the founding editor of No Issue, one-third of Grupo Ñ, and a member of the international artist group Collective Task.

Badly Licked Bear is or has been an arts administrator, community leader, writer, curator, student, artist, and educator. Their artistic work stands in two circles – one a performance practice of embodied discipline, BDSM, and Looney Tunes and the other a subject-making practice concerned with survival in an age of (INSERT CRISIS HERE). Their work has been exhibited or performed at venues including: MOCA, Hammer Museum, REDCAT, Human Resources Los Angeles, Machine Project, Cerritos College, The Wignall Museum, as well as less-institutional locales, like an illegal bar in the Pacific Ocean during the inaugural Current Triennial. Their work is in the library collections of The Museum of Modern Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Otis College of Art and Design.

Caleb Luna is a writer, performer and assistant professor of Feminist Studies at UC Santa Barbara. Their teaching, writing and research merges fat studies and queer of color critique with media and performance studies. Their recent work considers how queer people continue to make life and find connection and pleasure amidst the ongoing polycrises of the current moment. You can follow more of their writing and work on Substack and Instagram under @chairbreaker.

Page Person makes live art and hosts the performance party The End of the World. Her work has been exhibited at Human Resources, the New Museum, the Los Angeles LGBT Center and The Hammer Museum. Her book *EX-ARTIST* will be published by Dopamine Press.

Sheree Rose has been thrilling, shocking, and exciting audiences worldwide since 1981, beginning with her collaborations with Bob Flanagan. Their groundbreaking show, *Visiting Hours*, opened at the Santa Monica Museum of Art in 1992 and traveled to the New Museum of Contemporary Art. Rose has also collaborated with Mike Kelley, Nine Inch Nails, and Martin O'Brien. Her work has been exhibited throughout the United States and internationally in Germany, Australia, Japan, and England. Rose co-produced the Sundance award–winning documentary, *Sick*, and is the subject of Y. Howard's collection, *Rated RX: Sheree Rose with and after Bob Flanagan*.

About the Performances

Sheree Rose | *Love Will Tear Us Apart Again*

Sheree Rose has been thrilling, shocking, and exciting audiences worldwide since 1981, beginning with her collaborations with Bob Flanagan, who was her partner and contractual submissive until he died of cystic fibrosis in 1996. In Love Will Tear Us Apart Again, Rose performs a meditation on love and loss to the soundtrack of her and Flanagan's song. She bleeds not because she wants to die, but to contemplate the fragility of love and the fleetingness of life. Building upon Rose's broader performance practice that entangles euphoric connection, sadism, and illness, Rose performs this piece in The AIDS Monument as a distinctive offering to our loved ones who live with and have died from AIDS.

Page Person | *Uncle David*

Remembrance of a queer elder's passing from AIDS.

Gabrielle Civil | *ECHO*

How to wrap your head around it? How to make the past resound? In ECHO, Gabrielle Civil re-embodies and amplifies personal/public memories of queer history and the legacy of AIDS.

Jerri Allyn | Theo, *One of the Sweet Young Men*

Allyn reads an excerpt from Angels Have Been Sent to Me – a month-long interactive art event about aging and disability to increase awareness about accessibility. At 11 sites, able-bodied audiences were invited to use artistically transformed wheelchairs, crutches and blindfolds. The public could simultaneously listen to bilingual audio stories about Allyn's immigrant, wheelchair-bound grandmother and her cronies, living in Goldwater, a critical care home on Roosevelt Island in NYC.

Sebastian Hernandez | *untitled infinity*

There is no absence without presence.

Kevin Emilio Contreras

Making his LA public performance debut, visual artist Kevin Emilio Contreras will present a piece centered upon an evocation ritual. In conversation with the AIDS Monument itself, the artist will reflect upon the meaning of the Monument and the countless lives lost; with this piece, he will reach through the veil to commune with the spirits of those we lost, and to offer a salve in their memory, in the form of song.

Dacity | *Barigongju*

Barigongju draws from its eponymous Korean myth, a tale of a princess discarded for not being a male heir. Her

name, 바리데기, itself means "the discarded child." Yet when the family that abandoned her faces death, the princess crosses into the afterlife to bring back the water of life. Through that journey, the discarded child becomes a sacred guide — a figure who could move between the living and the dead, caring for those at the threshold and accompanying souls on their passage.

Dacity's performance constructs on a funeral tradition of shamanism as a practice of consoling and warding spirits into their final resting place.

Sophia le Fraga | *Dangling Verse*

Sophia will present garments on live models who will walk across the monument from one end to the other. Up to 5 volunteers requested in all sizes, shapes, and forms.* Dangling Verse shifts between clothing and sculpture, poetry and installation, presence and absence.

Garments hang along the wheelchair ramp, each bearing a poetic text, primarily dealing with love and loss. Together, they form a loose constellation of language, clothing, and bodies — surfaces that hold language, traces, gestures, and the possibility of a person.

Viewers are invited to move alongside the clothes, to stop and read, and to encounter the work as a collaborative poem: one that changes with each viewer, their movement through the space, and the connections they make between the garments and texts.

Ajani Brannum | *Night reveals to night*

Written by Ajani Brannum
with lines from Lucky Daye
"I wish I could write poems / without language like you" (Danez Smif)

Marcus Kuiland-Nazario | *Podium*

Marcus Kuiland-Nazario will be sharing a performance from his ancestral podium, honoring and commemorating his friends and family lost to the global HIV/AIDS Pandemic. This performance is dedicated to the memory of Mario Gardner.

Patty Gone | *Manifesto: Draft 1, after Zoe Leonard*

A poem for the occasion.

Badly Licked Bear | *No Loads Refused*

Badly Licked Bear will cruise the event – interpret this as you will.

Caleb Luna | *ALL FAGGOTS GO TO HEAVEN*

I will be reading my poem, titled a.f.g.t.h. (all faggots go to heaven) and an excerpt from a forthcoming essay that

meditates on the ubiquity of death and violence in queer life and theorizes how we keep living and fighting amidst them.

Ben Cuevas | *LGBTQ Activism Sound Healing*

Chanting is a practice found in both protest and meditation. But have we ever chanted in protest as meditation? In this offering, artist Ben Cuevas will lead the audience in a sound healing comprised of queer protest slogans chanted as a form of contemplation. With a background soundscape of healing singing bowls, by @SoundHealingVibes, we will honor our queer forebears who chanted for us and our freedoms, by chanting for them. Through repetition, these calls for change become a kind of ritual, connecting the freedoms we've inherited to the futures we're still fighting for.

About Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions

LACE (Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions) champions artists, curators, and cultural workers who explore and defy boundaries through socially-engaged projects. We provide platforms within and beyond our space for diverse communities to connect deeply with challenging contemporary art. Uniquely positioned in the heart of Hollywood, LACE amplifies the voices and visions of Los Angeles' diverse makers. LACE presents free, significant, and timely exhibitions, performances, and public projects, complemented by education initiatives.

About the Performance Art Museum

Founded in 2023, the Performance Art Museum is an emergent non-profit organization that centers performance art in the foreground of contemporary practice. As the first museum dedicated exclusively to the presentation and preservation of the art of performance, PAM is the central venue for the discovery, interaction, and study of contemporary and historically significant performance artworks. For more information, visit pamuseum.org

About Circa

Presented by One Institute, Circa is the first and only LGBTQ+ histories festival in the United States, held each October during LGBTQ+ History Month. Established in 2023, Circa: Queer Histories Festival is a month-long, LA County-wide programming series showcasing the trailblazing histories and vibrant cultural contributions of LGBTQ+ communities through the lens of present-day challenges and triumphs. Through exhibitions, performance, readings, screenings, lectures, dialogues, and parties, Circa features queer and trans artists, activists, and educators leading the movement for LGBTQ+ liberation. www.oneinstitute.org/circa/

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