

# Institute of Contemporary Arts

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## Programme

Wednesday 1 May, 6:30pm, Cinema

### **'Nonconscious Cognition' and Kathy Acker's 'Language of the Body'**

Literary critic N. Katherine Hayles presents a talk addressing Acker's 'language of the body' in relation to her own recent research and writing.

Saturday 4 May, 6:30pm, Cinema

### **The Realm of the Recognisable: Sarah Schulman in conversation with Matias Viegner**

Writer and activist Sarah Schulman is joined by artist and writer Matias Viegner to discuss Schulman's three decades of work and their shared engagements with Kathy Acker.

Thursday 9 May, 7pm, Studio

### **Reba Maybury leads the Kathy Acker Reading Group**

Writer, lecturer and political dominatrix Reba Maybury leads a fearless discussion of themes in Acker's writing including the father figure and emancipation.

Tuesday 21 May, 6:45pm, Cinema

### **Staying with the Violence: Womb Work and Family Abolition**

Writer Sophie Lewis presents a lecture drawing on her new theories of surrogacy, gestational justice and family abolition, followed by a discussion with poet Anne Boyer.

Thursday 23 May, 7pm, Theatre

### **Class, Queers and the Avant-Garde**

Presented by writer Isabel Waidner, readings and a discussion interrogating queerness and class in interdisciplinary writing and publishing in the UK.

Wednesday 12 June, 6:45pm, Cinema

### **Variety + Q&A with Bette Gordon and Erika Balsom**

A young woman works at a pornographic theatre in Times Square in this 1983 film directed by Bette Gordon and co-written by Kathy Acker.

Tuesday 18 June, 12 noon – 2pm, Lower Gallery

### **Tarot at lunchtime in the art museum, a pop-up homage to Kathy Acker**

Poet Bhanu Kapil performs tarot readings through the Shining Tribe tarot, an art deck given to the poet by author and divinatory tarot expert Rachel Pollack.

Wednesday 19 June, 7pm, Theatre

### **How to Wash a Heart**

Poet Bhanu Kapil performs a new performative commission made with artist Rohini Kapil in response to Kathy Acker's physical presence. Bhanu Kapil's solo performance draws together ritual, movement and a performative reading of her poetic prose work *Schizophrene*.

Thursday 20 June, 7pm, Studio

### **D. Mortimer leads the Kathy Acker Reading Group**

Poet and writer D. Mortimer leads the second in a series of close readings of Acker's writing.

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Tuesday 2 & Wednesday 3 July, Cinema

**Reza Abdoh: The Blind Owl + short films + discussion**

Over two evenings, screenings of moving-image works by director and playwright Reza Abdoh (1963–1995) followed by discussions between scholars and artists on his work and its intersections with the work of Kathy Acker.

Thursday 4 July, Studio

**Rosanna McNamara leads the Kathy Acker Reading Group**

Writer Rosanna McNamara leads the third in a series of close readings of Acker's writing.

Friday 5 July, Theatre

**All Us Girls Have Been Dead For So Long**

A new play co-written and performed by artists Linda Stupart and Carl Gent.

Tuesday 9 July, 8–9pm, Theatre

**A Series of Invocations Because Nothing Else Works**

A performance by artist and poet Precious Okoyomon with performance maker Lu Yim, based on a new extended poem by Okoyomon.

Wednesday 17 July, Cinema

**Who's Afraid of Kathy Acker?**

Barbara Caspar's 2009 film essay on Kathy Acker features archival footage and interviews with William S. Burroughs, Richard Hell and Carolee Schneemann.

Wednesday 31 July – Sunday 4 August, Theatre

**Desire**

A production of Acker's play *Desire* facilitated by Kate Valk of The Wooster Group.

Saturday 3 August & Sunday 4 August, Cinema

**Symposium on Kathy Acker**

A two-day symposium examining the legacy of Acker's writing.

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## Biographies

**Reza Abdoh** (1963–1995) was an Iranian-born American director and playwright known for large-scale, experimental theatrical productions.

**Sophie Bassouls** is a French photographer who covered literary news at Sygma photographic agency from 1986–2004.

**Kathy Brew** is an American film producer, director, writer and curator of notable video and documentary festivals, including MoMA's annual Doc Fortnight.

**Paul Buck** is a British poet, writer, playwright, artist and translator, and founded the magazine *Curtains*.

**Ellen Cantor** (1963–2013) was an American artist whose work addressed personal desire and institutional violence.

**Barbara Caspar** is an artist and filmmaker whose punk documentary *Who's Afraid of Kathy Acker?* was released in 2007.

**Julien Ceccaldi** is an artist and comic book writer, whose recent comic book *Solito* was produced in dialogue with his solo show at Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne (2019).

**Jamie Crewe** is a beautiful bronze figure with a polished cocotte's head. They live and work in Glasgow.

**Jimmy DeSana** (1949–1990) was an American artist and a key figure in the East Village art scene in downtown New York during the 1970s and 80s.

**Coleen Fitzgibbon** is an American experimental film artist residing in New York City and Montana.

**Carl Gent** is an artist from Bexhill-on-sea whose recent work has sought to re-fictionalise the life of Cynethryth, the 8th-century queen of Mercia.

**Leslie Asako Gladsjø** is an American-born film and documentary producer and director.

**Bette Gordon** is an American filmmaker and professor at Columbia University School of the Arts.

**Penny Goring** is an artist and poet based in London whose work addresses grief, addiction, trauma, anger, fear, violence and ageing.

**Sidsel Meineche Hansen** is an artist based in London.

**N. Katherine Hayles** is a literary critic and theorist, and author of *How We Became Posthuman: Virtual Bodies in Cybernetics, Literature and Informatics* (1999).

**Johanna Hedva** is a Korean-American artist, writer, musician and performer, raised by a family of witches in Los Angeles, and now living between LA and Berlin.

**Caspar Heinemann** is an artist, writer and poet based in London and Berlin, interested in queer mysticism, experimental poetics, countercultural aesthetics and queer biosemiotics.

**Every Ocean Hughes** (f.k.a. Emily Roysdon) is an interdisciplinary artist and writer, and co-founder of queer feminist journal and artist collective, LTTR.

**Bhanu Kapil** is a British-Indian writer, poet and teacher based in Colorado.

**Ghislaine Leung** is an artist and writer based in London whose work uses editorial and economic practices of video and writing to produce sculpture.

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**Sophie Lewis** is a writer and feminist geographer interested in leakiness, communisation, anti-work and anthrogenesis.

**Candice Lin** is an artist based in Los Angeles whose multimedia work addresses colonialism and the male-centred gaze.

**Stephen Littman** is an artist and filmmaker who has also worked as an editor and filmmaker documenting numerous live events including theatre and performance art.

**Rosanna McNamara** is an artist whose work centres around feminist theory and politics.

**Reba Maybury** is a writer, lecturer and political dominatrix based in London.

**The Mekons** are a British-American punk rock band who formed as an art collective in Leeds in the late 1970s.

**D. Mortimer** is a writer and poet occupied with experimental queer and trans narratives.

**Precious Okoyomon** is a poet and artist based in Brooklyn, and is the author of *Ajebota*, published in 2016 by Bottlecap Press.

**Genesis P-Orridge** is a British singer-songwriter, musician, poet, performance artist and occultist.

**Raúl Ruiz** (1941–2011) was an experimental Chilean filmmaker, writer and teacher.

**Sarah Schulman** is an American novelist, playwright, nonfiction writer, screenwriter and AIDS activist and historian.

**Nancy Spero** (1926–2009) was an American artist and activist and founding member of the first women's cooperative gallery, A.I.R. Gallery, in New York in 1972.

**Alan Sondheim** is an American poet, musician, critic, writer and theorist of cyberspace.

**Patrick Staff** is an artist based in Los Angeles whose interdisciplinary practice considers ideas of discipline, dissent, labour and the queer body.

**Linda Stupart** is an artist, writer and educator based in London and is interested in objectification, abjection, science fiction and revenge.

**Atalia ten Brink** is a British artist and filmmaker, and was a member of the Moonshine Video Workshop and production assistant on *ZG Magazine* during the mid-1980s.

**Kate Valk** is an actress and founding member of the experimental theatre company The Wooster Group, based in New York.

**VNS Matrix** (1991–1997) was an artist collective founded by Josephine Starrs, Julianne Pierce, Francesca da Rimini and Virginia Barratt, who, in 1991 collaboratively wrote *A Cyberfeminist Manifesto for the 21st Century*.

**Isabel Waidner** is an author, critical theorist and editor of *Liberating the Canon*, an anthology of experimental writing published by Dostoyevsky Wannabe (2018).

**Robin Winters** is an American conceptual artist and teacher based in New York.

**David Wojnarowicz** (1954–1992) was a painter, photographer, writer, filmmaker, performance artist and AIDS activist prominent in New York City in the 1970s and 80s.