



The Split Is Vividly Revealed

by Romily Alice Walden

June 3 - 21, 2019

Opening Reception: Friday, June 7, 6-9 pm

NARS Foundation is pleased to present *The Split Is Vividly Revealed*, with new works by transdisciplinary artist Romily Alice Walden. The installations *My Body Is The House That I Live In: F.G, L.G and R.A.W*, consist of 7 white neon tubes, placed horizontally, one below the other, on the gallery wall. Each tube corresponds to a facet of 'wellness': physical, emotional, mental/intellectual, occupational, sexual, social and spiritual. Every hour, a sick/disabled participant assigns each wellness category a number from 0-10, 0 being no wellness in that category and 10 being full wellness; that number will determine each tube's brightness for the next hour. At 0 the tube will be off, for each number up to 10 the tube will glow fractionally brighter, with a score of 10 corresponding to full brightness. One sick or disabled woman/gender nonconforming participant will control each installation for the duration of the exhibition. In this way each work becomes a durational performance of living with sickness, one that views disability as a political issue, moving illness out of isolation and into the public realm.

The work simultaneously points to the inadequacy of our common cultural language surrounding sickness, pain and disability. Making use of the 0-10 pain scale employed by the medical industrial complex, the installations illustrate the failings of representing bodies, pain and sickness in numerical form. Here we see individual experiences reduced to statistics; leaky, messy and multilayered conditions are reduced to numbers on a scale. Whilst the work attempts to bring sickness, chronic illness, pain and disability into the public space, it also reflects upon the pitfalls of trying to make sickness palatable and understandable for a nondisabled audience.

In My Body Is The House That I Live In: audio/video performance modules: F.G, L.G, R.A.W, three arduino/C++ modules are coded to repeat the data collected from each participant for the duration of the exhibition. Computer-generated voices endlessly loop, TFT screens refresh and reload every minute offering the same data translated into written form. The exhibition presents an overload of information, all the time questioning whether the information provides you with any insight at all.

These two pieces will be accompanied by *Notes From The Underlands*, a performative text from the depths of queer disability culture. It is both a future-orientated vision of a sick, disabled and care-giving Utopia, and an

urgent call to action in the now. The text is performed through audio and text, challenging the notion that the body must be physically present (and abled) in order to perform. In the context of *The Split Is Vividly Revealed*, this work offers the alternative perspective. Rather than trying to make sickness and disability palatable for an abled audience, *Notes From The Underlands* demands that the abled community works to move toward a sick and disabled perspective.

About the Artist:

Romily Alice Walden is a transdisciplinary artist whose work centres a queer disabled perspective on the fragility of the body. Her work has been shown throughout the UK, Europe and North America in solo and group exhibitions. In 2019 she will present solo exhibitions at SOHO20 Gallery New York and Nars Foundation, Brooklyn, as well as being resident at Storm King Art Centre with the Shandaken residency program. Walden's practice spans sculpture, installation, video and printed matter, all with a socially engaged and research-led working methodology.

Accessibility:

Nars Foundation is only wheelchair accessible via prior arrangement - please contact programs@narsfoundation.org to arrange this. Free tap water available. Seating with backs available. Audio description available. There is no nearby accessible public transport. On street parking is available. Please consider coming to this event scent free. For further questions regarding accessibility, please contact NARS directly at programs@narsfoundation.org.

The New York Art Residency and Studios (NARS) Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit arts organization committed to supporting artists and curators on an international level as well as engaging the local community in Brooklyn and the Greater New York area. NARS provides an array of creative support services and professional development opportunities for emerging and mid-career artists through short-term integrated residency programs, affordable long-term studio spaces, progressive exhibition programs, and engaging public programs. These services operate in conjunction with our education and community outreach initiatives. Our mission is to present diverse platforms on which to nurture creative inspiration and innovative cross-pollination of ideas.

For further information, please contact us at www.narsfoundation.org / info@narsfoundation.org / 718-768-2765.



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