

For Immediate Release June 19th, 2020



Looking Forward while Looking Back:

A Wave of Happenings

June 19 – July 3, 2020
NARS Virtual Gallery

With works by **Freya Powell, Sophie Dupont & Io Makandal**

Curated by Elisa Gutiérrez Eriksen



The circumstances and events that have developed in the past weeks have brought feelings of despair, tension, anger, fear and frustration, only to name a few. In the middle of a series of protests the question of how we each fight for justice arises.

For this iteration of **Looking Forward while Looking Back**, NARS Foundation have brought together the works of **Freya Powell, Sophie Dupont** and **Io Makandal**. Their works intersect as expressions of recognition of different contemporary tragedies (states of unease); as ways of confronting, challenging, dissenting and honoring what has been lost.

“Pervasive forms of inequality have established that some lives are disproportionately more livable and grievable than others” (1). In this context, *Only Remains Remain*, by Freya Powell, pays homage to the lives of unidentified migrants in mass graves by exploring the mournful potential of the human voice through pitch, intonation, breath, movement, and pause, invoking the silence of their burial and acknowledging our collective complicity and grief.

Sophie Dupont’s *Body Full of Breath* performance investigates what it means to be alive by fully filling her lungs and emptying them –evoking the cycle of life and death– at a time where the ability to breathe becomes an act of resistance that enables a voice, a movement, and a shared wind.

For Io Makandal, monuments reflect societies that are obsessed with a distorted idea of progress. They act as fictional spaces and places that illustrate an ambiguous relation between dreamed and created environments. In *Life in the Entropics*, Makandal rebuilds structures with detritus of the city of Johannesburg as material expressions of chaos and dis-order.

From material expressions of entropy, to the collective power of the voice when mourning, and asserting our equal state as human beings at the moment of existing, these works explore different ways in which, from the personal to the collective, we aim to recover our rights to mourn, to be named, to demand change, to re-build, to breathe.

(1) Judith Butler, *The Force of Non-Violence*

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This exhibition is part of the NARS **Mutual Support Network**, a platform that will host a series of virtual initiatives, based on NARS' social media accounts with the aim to nurture creative inspiration and innovative cross-pollination of ideas between our Alumni and our virtual audiences.

With our social media platforms as meeting grounds for a creative dialogue, NARS will present these virtual exhibitions every two weeks with the work of 2 - 3 Alumni, and will be paired with written interviews with each showcased artist presented as a continuation in the second week of each exhibition.

About NARS: 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 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, progressive exhibition programs, international exchanges, and engaging public programs that foster global understanding and dynamic cross-cultural dialogues. These services operate in conjunction with our community outreach initiatives to promote greater accessibility to contemporary art for the under-served local community in south Brooklyn. Our mission is to present diverse platforms on which to nurture creative inspiration and innovative cross-pollination of ideas.

Accessibility: NARS Foundation is only wheelchair accessible via prior arrangement - please contact info@narsfoundation.org to arrange this. Free filtered water is available. Seating with backs is available. The closest train station is 0.3 miles away (R train at 45th Street). The closest wheelchair accessible train station is 3.2 miles away (Atlantic Avenue/ Barclays Center). On street parking is available. Please consider coming to this event scent free. For further questions regarding accessibility, please contact NARS directly at info@narsfoundation.org.



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