

CENTER for EXPERIMENTAL LECTURES

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Sophia Cleary, Chris Domenick, Alhena Katsof
Hosted by The Shandaken Project
Shandaken, NY

Saturday August 31, 2013 7pm

The Center for Experimental Lectures invites you to join us upstate for our annual Labor Day weekend event at The Shandaken Project for new lecture-performances by Sophia Cleary, Chris Domenick, and Alhena Katsof. Guests are welcome any time in the afternoon and to stay on after the lectures into the night or overnight for eating, drinking, and camping.

Alhena's presentation, provisionally titled "The Garden Is Overgrown", will explore gardens and woodlands as an enchanted, darkly mnemonic device. Burials of various kinds and the occasional zebra crossing take place as we meander through stories of fantastical cultivation. Wrapped around poems, paintings and post-socialist sculpture graveyards, the garden is overgrown with plants, herbs, flowers and weeds. As Giacomo Leopardi says, "Everywhere you look, you will find pain". We will visit with supremely accomplished as well as accidental gardeners, propagators, clodhoppers, and gleaners, both real and imaginary, including Medlar Lucan and Durian Gray, Hannah Höch and Vita Sackville-West among numerous others.

Alhena Katsof was Volkswagen Fellow at MoMA PS1 in New York from 2012 - 2013. In 2011 she was Museum as Hub Fellow at the New Museum in New York and she co-curated, with Dean Daderko, *Directing Light onto Fist of Father*, a solo exhibition by the artist MPA at Leo Koenig, Inc., which included a performance as part of Performa 2011. Other recent exhibitions and events include *Mathieu Lefevre: The Stuff Things Are Made Of* at Regina Rex, *Night for Listening*, with Lucie Fontaine at Marianne Boesky Gallery, and *Tara Mateik: Friends of Dorothy* at Shoot The Lobster, all in New York. In 2010 she co-curated the project *I'm Not Here. An Exhibition Without Francis Alys* at de Appel's Boys' School in Amsterdam with her colleagues at de Appel Art Centre. During her MFA at the Glasgow School of Art in Scotland, Alhena organized exhibitions under the pseudonym A.Vermin between 2006-2009. Her zine *Nourishing Endometriosis* (2001) has ongoing distribution and she contributes to publications such as C Magazine, Canadian Art, MAP: Journeys in Contemporary Art, and Kaleidoscope. Alhena has worked extensively with Public Movement (IL). She currently serves as Public Movement Agent, Strategy and Protocol Manager.

Chris Domenick's presentation, entitled "Two and Monuments," will address topology and the complexities and difficulties of site-specificity. Focused on instances in which monuments are constructed for a site and subsequently severed from their place and rendered homeless, Chris' presentation will explore the possibilities of these nomadic objects. Might there be a place for language to go once it is displaced from its context? Where do we find these semantic refugee camps? Chris will construct a metaphoric, linguistic, and actual map of signs that require us to understand the psychic as their primary site.

Chris Domenick is an artist based in Queens, NY. He recently received the C-12 Award from Hunter College for the exhibition *Wet.Lobby.Luxor* at Hunter College Art Galleries. He has had solo shows at Louis B. James Gallery, and Anderson University, Indiana. In 2012 he received a Graf Travel Grant to travel through Death Valley and Las Vegas to explore the way American Cinema has historically visualized the landscape of the desert. He holds an MFA from Hunter College, and a BFA from Tyler School of Art. He attended Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in 2012. He has received fellowships from Millay Colony, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Ox-bow School, and The Vermont Studio Center.

Sophia Cleary's presentation, tentatively titled "I want to be inside you Part II", will investigate masks, breath, organs, terrorism, balancing, urns, graves, dominance and love. By assaulting the act of oration with dance, Sophia hopes to conjure a performance that makes space for an unusual emotional texture that won't be able to exist until the audience arrives. Sophia is a resident at The Shandaken Project this summer and will be developing her talk during her stay.

Sophia Cleary is a performance artist based in Brooklyn, NY. She is the founder and coordinator of the works-in-progress series REHEARSAL and is co-editor for Ugly Duckling Presse's performance annual Emergency INDEX. She has worked with the Kate Bush Dance Troupe, Ann Liv Young, Dynasty Handbag (Jibz Cameron), Neal Medlyn, and Alexandra Bachzetsis. She has presented her work at the Bushwick Starr, Center for Performance Research, Danspace Project, and Dixon Place. She holds an MA in Performance Studies from the Tisch School of the Arts.

The Shandaken Project is a residency in Shandaken, NY that supports experimentation by emerging and mid-career artists, writers, curators and other producers of culture with free residencies that include room, board, and studio space.

The Center for Experimental Lectures is a platform for artists, theorists, and other cultural producers to push the boundaries of the public lecture format. The Center for Experimental Lectures curates and archives regular lecture events with hopes of providing occasion to think about not only the content of each unique lecture but also the possibilities of the lecture as a creative form. The Center for Experimental Lectures has hosted events at MoMA PS1, Recess, and Alderman Exhibitions. The Center is directed by artist Gordon Hall. Please visit www.experimentallectures.org or email info@experimentallectures.org for more information.

Visitors to The Shandaken Project should BYO drinks, barbecue contributions, and camping tents/supplies. Detailed directions by car or bus can be found at www.shandakenproject.org/aboutdirections.html. Visitors taking the bus should take the 2pm or 3:30pm buses from NYC if they want to be picked up at the station in Phoenicia. Please contact us with any questions at info@experimentallectures.org

