

CENTER for EXPERIMENTAL LECTURES

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Chelsea Knight and Martine Syms
Hosted by The Shandaken Project and Storm King Art Center
New Windsor, NY

Sunday September 6th, 2015, 3pm-evening
Beginning at the Visitor Center of Storm King Art Center

The Center for Experimental Lectures invites you to join us sixty minutes north of New York City for our fourth annual Labor Day weekend event hosted by the Shandaken Project, for new lecture-performances by Chelsea Knight and Martine Syms. The day's program will begin at Storm King Art Center at 3pm, and continue into the evening on the contiguous campus of The Shandaken Project at Storm King. The Shandaken Project will also host a selection of readings organized by Adult Contemporary. Limited passes for free entry to the sculpture park are available on a first-come, first-served basis. **Please RSVP to info@shandakenproject.org for more information, including where to park, how to gain free admission to Storm King, and the address of the Shandaken Project at Storm King campus.**

Chelsea Knight will present an experimental walking tour of Storm King beginning at the Visitor Center at 3pm. *What Is a Document?* will reconfigure the sculpture park's objects and surroundings, slipping them away from their official histories and engaging alternative approaches to their origins. Produced from research undertaken during Knight's time as a resident at the Shandaken Project this summer, *What Is a Document?* will commingle improvised fictions with recorded histories. She asks: what are fixed things, words, memories, and desires? How does a new idea, proposition or belief become a tautology? What happens when we establish legitimacy for a thing, then allow that legitimacy to collapse? The piece forms a one-thing-leads-to-the-next narrative that will inevitably wind away from the objects in the park as the audience walks among them.

Audience members are then invited to enjoy self-directed tours of the sculpture park, and reconvene on the grounds of The Shandaken Project at Storm King, which are contiguous to the sculpture park, at 6pm.

After the program by Adult Contemporary and a BYO-BBQ, Martine Syms will present *Misdirected Kiss*, which she describes as follows: *"I've been researching a set of gestures first studied by John Bulwer in 1644. I came across Bulwer's texts Chirologia and Chironomia while looking for information about acting techniques. I was thinking about the similarities and differences between real movements and movements made for camera. I started comparing Bulwer's index to YouTube videos and animated GIFs featuring black women. How did I learn to move? I modeled myself after the women in my family, celebrities, and public figures. I had learned by looking, by being a witness. These images had accumulated in my body."*

Chelsea Knight was born in Vermont and lives and works in New York. She received her B.A. from Oberlin College and her M.F.A. from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Knight works in video and performance to consider the inadequacy of language and its relation to the reproduction of power and identity. She recently completed residencies at the New Museum, the Whitney Independent Study Program and the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, and was a 2007 Fulbright Fellow in Italy. Her work has been exhibited internationally at venues such as The New Museum (New York), The Palais de Tokyo (Paris), The St. Louis Art Museum, Abrons Art Center (New York), and Momenta Art (New York).

Martine Syms is an artist based in Los Angeles. She has lectured at Yale University, SXSW, Project Row Houses, California Institute of the Arts, University of Chicago, the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Johns Hopkins University, and MoMA P.S.1, among other venues. Her artwork has been exhibited and screened extensively, including presentations at the New Museum, MCA Chicago, Green Gallery, Gene Siskel Film Center, and White Flag Projects (St. Louis).

The Shandaken Project has supported cultural producers who work in an interdisciplinary capacity or affect change in their respective disciplines with process-focused residencies since 2012. Beginning in 2015, its signature residency program is presented in partnership with Storm King Art Center. More information is available at www.shandakenproject.org.

The Center for Experimental Lectures is an artist's project by Gordon Hall that provides a platform for artists, theorists, and other cultural producers to engage with the public lecture as a format. Since 2011 the Center for Experimental Lectures has commissioned 24 new lecture-performances at a variety of venues including Alderman Exhibitions (Chicago), Recess (NYC), MoMA PS1, and at the Whitney Museum of American Art presenting *Seminars with Artists* in conjunction with the 2014 Whitney Biennial. An archive including video and written transcripts can be found on the archive page of the website at www.experimentallectures.org.

Travel directions to Storm King can be found at the Storm King website. Limited opportunities for camping are available at The Shandaken Project at Storm King. Please RSVP to info@shandakenproject.org to reserve a camping spot. Please contact us with any other inquiries at info@experimentallectures.org.