

PERFORMANCE AND THE MATERNAL



ENGAGE.... conversations conceived across
performance studies and the maternal

Abstracts

Maternal Performance (Artist Forum), 6.10.20, 7.30 – 9pm



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Provocation: Performance and the maternal are allied as durational, embodied, relational practices. What might be unique about a maternal performance aesthetic?

Dyana Gravina and Lynn Lu

Thinking through the provocation together, Dyana Gravina and Lynn Lu propose to perform the maternal in both the private and public sphere simultaneously. They address the labour of care rendered mostly invisible by our socio-cultural infrastructures, and the fact that much of it is performed by women. Highlighting the non-negotiable chunk of time for mothers of small children - dinner/bath/bedtime on a school night - when the forum will take place, Lynn and Dyana will perform “maternal time, ...or time that can only go at the pace of the other”.* Layering narration and doubling views of their real-time mothering, they will traverse the margins between 'performing the maternal' and 'using the maternal as present performance's material'.

*Baraitser, L. "Suspended Time". *True Currency about Feminist Economics*. Podcast audio, episode 4, 2020.

Jodie Hawkes

Jodie Hawkes' presentation will respond to the provocation of what might be unique about a maternal aesthetic through ideas that have arisen during her ongoing PaR PhD project *Playing Kate*. *Playing Kate* is a maternal performance project encompassing multiple artistic outputs, including

performances, videos, photographs and public appearances. Jodie will discuss the process of repli-Kation and argue against the desire for a unique maternal performance and instead for more 'common' aesthetics.

Ruchika Singh

In this presentation, Ruchika Singh will talk about her project *A.M.M.A.A. - The Archive for Mapping Mother Artists in Asia*. She will begin by introducing the project and the need to situate it within the feminist discourse in Asia. She will move on to present the project in the context of looking at the conditions, which impact the construction of maternal, performance aesthetics and how we can work around them, by creating curated avenues for mother artists. She will discuss the three core points of her manifesto - the Mapping, Visibility and Mobility of mother artists. She will outline her engagements with inner-conflicts between the personal-professional life of mother artists to become socially validated as 'normal'

Kristina Gavran and Tina Hoffman, Notnow Collective

Kristina Gavran and Tina Hoffman will talk about the history of the Notnow Collective and the work they have created through it. They will talk about *Wonderwoman the Naked Truth*, which explored different tensions of mothering experience and identity overall and about how their three children were present in every aspect of making and producing the show, including the touring. Work conditions had to reflect motherhood experience, and so Notnow Collective was born. From the early rehearsal process, Notnow implemented the idea of accessibility through the *BYOB*

(bring your own baby) performances: welcoming parents and carers to a show for adults, with their babies present, and often freely roaming about.

Chair: Lena Šimić