

Singing in Unison:

Artists Need to Create On the Same Scale That Society Has the Capacity to Destroy

A series of shows presented by Rail Curatorial Projects

Curated by Phong H. Bui and Cal McKeever

Having witnessed two ruptures—the pandemic and the ongoing crisis of our social and political condition, implemented in part by those who deploy technology and social media to create chaos and anxiety for self-serving purposes—we at the Brooklyn Rail responded by swiftly launching our New Social Environment (NSE) daily Zoom lunchtime conversation series. The NSE has now completed over 560 episodes and has reached a viewership of more than two million since the first program aired on March 17, 2020. It cultivates thoughtful discussions on pertinent topics in the arts, humanities, and sciences and values the amplification of “social intimacy”—in contrast to “social distancing”—through culture. The NSE, like the *Rail* itself, is freely available to all and aspires to help heal our social and political ills through the arts and the humanities.

As an extension of this important communal action, we now feel a great sense of urgency to create a large exhibition that will unfold over a period of several months and will bring together many different kinds of practices, styles, and voices. As we slowly emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, this timely exhibition is a celebration of hope for the future, in a similar spirit to our critically praised, monumental exhibition *Come Together: Surviving Sandy* in 2013. The unifying idea behind this wide-ranging and broadly inclusive exhibition is suggested by its title: *Singing in Unison: Artists Need to Create on the Same Scale That Society Has the Capacity to Destroy*.

This exhibition is inspired by an underlying philosophy that runs through American history and advocates for “the art of joining” as a social and cultural process that can mediate the disequilibrium within American politics and culture. Spread across eleven venues, the exhibition will combine works of art made by artists who were formally trained alongside works by artists who were self-taught, including works

by incarcerated artists and artists who struggle with mental illness. Among the participating artists, many urgent themes and topics, such as gender, ethnicity, and the limits of knowledge, will be prominently featured.

As an integral part of the Rail's curatorial vision, which emphasizes cross-pollination of the arts and humanities, there will also be a good deal of public programming, including panel discussions with artists, historians, and curators; readings of poetry and fiction; film screenings; music and dance performances; along with cooking performances led by Rirkrit Tiravanija and Tomas Vu, which will be organized in each location throughout the duration of the exhibition.

Each iteration of the exhibition will be dedicated to one of our recently deceased friends, as a tribute and form of living memory to that friend's lasting contributions.

On View | Part 1

Art Cake

214 40th Street

Brooklyn, New York

May 25–June 25, 2022

In loving memory of Peter Lamborn Wilson (1945–2022)

Featuring works by:

Wolf Tones (Nancy Shaver, Sterrett Smith, Maximilian Goldfarb, and Pradeep Dalal), Jean-Philippe Antoine, Hawkins Bolden, Jared Buckhiester, Pam Cardwell, Dawn Cerny, Public Collectors, Kenji Fujita, Charles Goldman, Incident Report, John Jackson, Julia Klein, Ken Landauer, Tracy Miller, Carla Herrera-Prats, Tyler Rowland, Soberscove Press, Steel Stillman, David Levi Strauss, Maya Strauss, Earl Swanigan, Mose Tolliver, and Peter Lamborn Wilson

On View | Part 2

Scully Tomasko Foundation

447 West 17th Street

New York, New York

May 28–September 1, 2022

In loving memory of Lawrence Weiner (1942–2021)

Featuring works by:

Tony Bechara, Brian Belott, Robert Bergman, Vivien Bittencourt, Lauren Bon, Katherine Bradford, Phong Bui, Lili Chin, Courttney Cooper, William Corwin, Thornton Dial, Sam Doyle, Aleksandar Duravcevic, Edward Durnford, William Edmondson, Lucy Fradkin, Joe Fyfe, Rico Gatson, Allen Glatter, Glenn Goldberg, William Hawkins, Mara Held, David Humphrey, Y.Z. Kami, Ben Keating, Matvey Levenstein, Erik Lindman, Vera Lutter, Chris Martin, Tom McGlynn, Sam Messer, Joe Minter, Andrew Moeller, Loren Munk, Jo Nigoghossian, Louis Osmosis, Jacob Ouillette, Martín Ramírez, David Reed, David Rhodes, Ethan Ryman, Julian Schnabel, Zorawar Sidhu & Rob Swainston, Arthur Simms, Federico Solmi, Mary Tillman Smith, Fred Tomaselli, Purvis Young, and Lisa Yuskavage

On View | Part 3

Below Grand

53 Orchard Street

New York, New York

May 29–July 2, 2022

In loving memory of Constance Lewallen (1939–2022)

Featuring works by:

Peter Acheson, Yasi Alipour, Gil Batle, Louis Block, Andrew Blythe, Regina Bogat, Lauren Bon, Katherine Bradford, James Castle, Lili Chin, William Corwin, Adriana Farmiga, Lucy Fradkin, Louis Fratino, Rico Gatson, Glenn Goldberg, EJ Hauser, Mara Held, Helmut Hladisch, Merlin James, Bill Jensen, Alain Kirili, Gustave Klumpp, Matvey Levenstein, Margrit Lewczuk, Erik Lindman, C.T. McClusky, Tom McGlynn, Sam Messer, Amanda Millet-Sorsa, Cy Morgan, Loren Munk, John Newman, Joseph Rappal, David Rhodes, Daniel Roberts, Heather Rubinstein, Cordy Ryman, Ethan Ryman, Peter Saul, Sean Scully, Jon Serl, Arthur Simms, Allison Read Smith, Leopold Strobl, Liliane Tomasko, Fred Tomaselli, Meg Webster, Alfred Williams, and Christopher Yockey

Part 4

Ricco/Maresca

529 W 20th Street

New York, New York

June 23–September 10, 2022

In loving memory of Etel Adnan (1925–2021)

Featuring works by:

Peter Acheson, Eddie Arning, Ursula Barnes, Brian Belott, Tony Bechara, Lauren Bon, Phong H. Bui, William Corwin, Thornton Dial, Aleksandar Duravcevic, Tamara Gonzales, Guy Goodwin, Domingo Guccione, EJ Hauser, William Hawkins, Bill Jensen, Alex Katz, Jon Kessler, Anna Kunz, Margrit Lewczuk, Vera Lutter, Chris Martin, Andrew Moeller, Loren Munk, John Newman, Raha Raissnia, Martín Ramírez, David Reed, Ethan Ryman, Sean Scully, Arthur Simms, Fred Tomaselli, Liliane Tomasko, Bill Traylor, George Widener, and Bob Witz

Part 5

TOTAH

183 Stanton Street

New York, New York

June 28–August 12, 2022

In loving memory of Dan Graham (1942–2022)

Featuring works by:

Eddie Arning, Tony Bechara, T. Bellerby, Lynda Benglis, Peter “Charlie” Attie Besharo, Vivien Bittencourt, Andrew Blythe, Lauren Bon, Cecily Brown, Phong Bui, Mara de Luca, Thornton Dial, Mark di Suvero, Aleksandar Duravcevic, Rico Gatson, Guy Goodwin, William Hawkins, Kim Jones, Jon Kessler, Matvey Levenstein, Vera Lutter, Clem McCarthy, Andrew Moeller, Loren Munk, Ishmael Randall Weeks, David Reed, Dorothea Rockburne, Julia Rommel, Ugo Rondinone, Clifford Ross, Ethan Ryman, Richard Serra, and Bob Witz

Dates for Industry City, Miguel Abreau, Vito Schnabel Gallery, Sperone Westwater, and Pioneer Works will be released soon.