

Meet Waradise: a temporary venue for things to happen.

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Directed by Alice Wells, with a forthcoming exhibition curated by Karen Archey, and design by Caroline Askew

Friday, 11/21 In Process

Andres Laracuate & Julia Weist

In Process is a temporary installation of incomplete, project-based works by Andres Laracuate and Julia Weist. The pieces on view are enriched by a shared notion of sculpture as an open process in which a work may be simultaneously unfinished and whole. Both artists are also invested in themes of transparency: Laracuate's piece is a receptive object and Weist's project is a documentary collection.

For this exhibition Laracuate will present "The Sounding Cataract Haunted Me Like a Passion". Operating on a faith based principle of the invisible and intangible, the work centers around an unseen African Grey parrot named Payaso, installed in a cage and shrouded in silk. Paya belongs to a species of birds renowned for their intelligence and proven cognitive ability and was originally conceived of as a unique way to present art that is text. Paya has lived in Laracuate's studio for several months, during which time he attempted to teach the bird the phrase, "smarter not harder," with no success. His role in Laracuate's studio references the contemporary practice of art fabrication and outsourcing. Paya functions as a mirror for thought, a meditation on meaning-making, language and conceptual art. With a life expectancy equal to or greater than that of the artist, Paya is ultimately a time sensitive work, and continues to function simultaneously in a complete and unfinished state.

Weist will present the current incarnation of her piece, "All History is Personal History."* For this work, Weist interviewed 15 of the 50 U.S. State Archivists about what they collect purely for their own pleasure and then re-fabricated the objects by hand. State Archivists are professionally responsible for uniting a wide range of individual experiences into a communal state history by amassing relevant objects. Weist's attempt to recreate the Archivist's personal collections in her own hand, thereby imbuing her reproductions with personal significance, is an exploration of the feasibility of disparate histories fusing through common relics. The gallery's Chinatown location is particularly relevant to this work because almost all of the interviewed Archivists collect items mass-produced in China: refrigerator magnets, dice, fortune cookie fortunes, plastic toys, etc. Weist's replicas are therefore particularly unique because they are painstakingly hand-crafted forgeries of objects of little or no "worth," warping traditional notions of value and authenticity, and further complicating her investigation of communal consumption and preservation.

** "All history is personal history. Everything else is just a story, a tale of moral or social edification that happened somewhere else to someone else in another time."*

– John Dougan, State Archivist of Missouri, as told to Julia Weist 6/22/08

Andres Laracuate is a New York based artist working with video/film, performance and sculpture. He has presented works internationally at venues including White Box in New York, MIT in Cambridge, Projet Midiin Brussels, the National Gallery of Arts, Albania, and Yukiko Kawase in Paris.

Julia Weist is a New York based artist working primarily with sculpture and installation. By the age of 23, Julia Weist's experimental romance novel, Sexy Librarian, had been independently published by Ellen Lupton, Curator of Design at the Cooper Hewitt and was in the collection the of the MoMA Library, the Brooklyn Museum library, the Getty Institute, and the New York Public Library. Weist was educated at the Cooper Union School of Art and is the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships including the NYAEA Artist Welfare Fund Prize. Her work has been featured in several recently published books and catalogs including "Indie Publishing" (Princeton Architectural Press) and "The Bruce High Quality Foundation & Other Ideas" (I.C. Editions). Weist has recently exhibited in New York City at Sara Meltzer Gallery, Oliver Kamm Gallery, The Kantor/Feuer Window, Autoversion LTD Gallery, The Center for Book Arts, The CSV Center, Anthology Film Archives, as well as international venues such as Galerie Nuke in Paris and the Copenhagen Quadrennial.