



# CENTER FOR PERFORMANCE RESEARCH

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** February 1, 2023

**PRESS CONTACT:** Alexandra Rosenberg, Executive Director, [alexandra@cprnyc.org](mailto:alexandra@cprnyc.org), (718) 349-1210

## CPR – CENTER FOR PERFORMANCE RESEARCH ANNOUNCES 2023 SPRING SEASON



Brooklyn, NY— CPR – Center for Performance Research, which supports the development and incubation of new work in dance, performance, and time-based art, is pleased to announce its **2023 Spring Season**. The season features performances, workshops, discussion, installations, and exhibitions with CPR Artists-in-Residence and an expansive network of artists, collectives, organizations, and guest curators.

“This spring at CPR, multimedia and multisensory artists are experimenting with relationships between sound, the body, and language/text/writing, acknowledging their inevitable subjection to translation, and surrendering to the grief and loss that accompany transformation,” says **Anna Muselmann, CPR Programs Manager**. “This season’s constellation of programs explores queer intimacies, sonic meditations, healing rituals, and group sculptural events, capturing an emergent longing for intimate community and collective resilience.”

With continued focus on providing open-ended platforms and resources for CPR Artists-in-Residence to develop and share their work and practice, 2022 AiRs **Ayano Elson** and **Pioneers Go East Collective** and 2023 AiRs **Orlando Hernández, LILLETH, Eleanor Kipping, and Alex Romania** will share work at various stages of development as part of CPR’s resident artist-focused **Sunday Salon** program.

For **Open Studios**, guest curators **Ethan Philbrick**, **Benjamin Akio Kimitch**, **Malcolm-x Betts**, and 2023 AiR **Beth Gill** will organize shared evenings of work-in-development with a focus on critical feedback, expanding CPR's orbit of experimental artists. Maintaining CPR's commitment to creative inquiry and knowledge exchange, **Performance Philosophy Reading Group** will invite conversations with **Subtext: Queer Theory Reading Group**, and with CPR 2023 AiRs **Raymond Pinto**, who will examine the body as a site of reading, and **x**, who will look at the revolutionary potential between queer/trans performance and abolition. Additional workshops offered by 2023 AiRs include explorations in moving and sonic meditations with **LILLETH** and a research-based workshop with **Beth Gill** that plays with visualization and duration to create group sculptural events.

Additional presentations include **Barnett Cohen's** *noposition nolocation*, which was originally curated for CPR's Fall Movement in 2022, but canceled due to Covid-19; a multimedia workshop performance of *Birdsong* by longtime CPR artist **Emily Wexler**; a co-presentation with **The Bushwick Starr**, hosting their Starr Reading Series for the second year at CPR; and CPR's fourth co-presentation with **ISSUE Project Room** to develop work by ISSUE resident artists.

**All of CPR's 2023 Spring Season programs are free or 'pay what you can' with a free option**, and take place at CPR's fully-accessible venue at 361 Manhattan Avenue in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, aside from two virtual gatherings of Performance Philosophy Reading Group.

CPR's 2023 Spring Season is organized by **Alexandra Rosenberg**, Executive Director and **Anna Muselmann**, Programs Manager.

A full calendar of programs as part of CPR's 2023 Spring Season is available at [www.cprnyc.org/event-calendar](http://www.cprnyc.org/event-calendar), and all tickets are available on Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/cprs-2023-spring-season-1694139>.

## **CPR PRESENTS: 2023 SPRING SEASON**

**Barnett Cohen: *noposition nolocation***

**Sat, February 18 at 3:00 P.M.**

Tickets \$0-\$25, pay what you can: <https://noposition-nolocation.eventbrite.com>

More information: [www.cprnyc.org/events/nopositionnolocation](http://www.cprnyc.org/events/nopositionnolocation)

*noposition nolocation* is a text-based movement piece including three performers who articulate queer surrealism through kaleidoscopic combinations of sound, body, and language. Through visual tableaux that integrate written absurdist non-sequiturs with symbolic performative gestures, **Barnett Cohen**, a queer artist who shapeshifts between poet, performance maker, painter, and activist, creates experiential constellations of voice and movement that highlight the persistence of anxious forces, neurotic tendencies, and unremitting violence within dominant ideologies. Originally curated as part of CPR's Fall Movement in 2022, but canceled due to Covid-19, Cohen will present an expanded version of the work as it has evolved since December.

**Workshop: STRATA – explorations in moving and sonic meditations with LILLETH**

**Sun, March 5 from 5:00–7:00 P.M.**

Free with RSVP: <https://LILLETH-STRATA-workshop.eventbrite.com>

More information: [www.cprnyc.org/events/workshop-lilleth](http://www.cprnyc.org/events/workshop-lilleth)

Visioned and Co-Facilitated by CPR 2023 Artist-in-Residence **LILLETH**, this one-day workshop will be a space to explore moving and sonic meditations, extending from their iterative project, *STRATA*. *STRATA* is a multi-sensory performance, a collective lucid dream, an urgent embodied call to slow down and experience our (be)longing. This project is growing in community with creative collaborators across overlapping orbits of the project, including Rad Pereira, Kelley Shih, Tianna Nicole, Lester St. Louis, Ita Segev, Jen Anaya, Sohina Sidhu, and many others loved ones. An in-progress performance and exhibition of *STRATA* will be presented in June 2023 as part of Sunday Salon.

**Sunday Salon – Ayano Elson: *Poor Image***

**Sun, March 12 at 3:00 P.M.**

Tickets \$0-\$25, pay what you can: <https://ayanoelson-poorimage.eventbrite.com>

More information: [www.cprnyc.org/events/ayanoelson-poorimage](http://www.cprnyc.org/events/ayanoelson-poorimage)

This new work by CPR 2022 Artist-in-Residence **Ayano Elson** investigates the roles of labor and power in contemporary American dance-making. Using improvisatory choreographic, musical, and text-based scores, *Poor Image* examines sites of conflict that emerge through the process of translation. The work envisions points at which reconstruction, desire, and loss become necessary to bring unseen, implicit material closer to the surface. Leveraging the collaborative environment of CPR, for this in-progress presentation, Elson and performers use control and instability as primary poles while experimenting within fixed patterns and a fixed space. *Poor Image* will premiere in October 2023 at PAGEANT.

**Sunday Salon – Pioneers Go East Collective: *My name'sound***

**Sun, March 19 at 5:00 P.M.**

Tickets \$0-\$25, pay what you can: <https://pioneersgoeastcollective-mynamesound.eventbrite.com>

More information: [www.cprnyc.org/events/pioneersgoeastcollective-mynamesound](http://www.cprnyc.org/events/pioneersgoeastcollective-mynamesound)

*My name'sound* is an original three-part work merging live performance, installation design, and film, and is inspired by James Baldwin's *The Artist's Struggle for Integrity*. A meditation on creative agency and Queer identity, the work supports and amplifies contemporary stories of resilience and otherness amidst censorship, and investigates the nexus of Queer intimacy, physical embodiment, and media to reflect on the legacy of LGBTQ icons. CPR 2022 Artist-in-Residence **Pioneers Go East Collective** will work on developing the third part of the triptych, a radio play incorporating music, sound, and spoken text.

**Performance Philosophy Reading Group with Subtext: Queer Theory Reading Group**

**Weds, March 22 at 6:00 P.M. [virtual]**

Free with RSVP: <https://pprg-subtext.eventbrite.com>

More information: [www.cprnyc.org/events/pprg-subtext](http://www.cprnyc.org/events/pprg-subtext)

**Subtext** is a queer theory reading group that brings together artists, writers, and scholars from across disciplines to read and study together. The group was founded in Berlin in 2015 and is now based in New York City and online. Their running syllabus reflects a multigenerational queer theory by trans poets, authors with various relationships to dis/ability, writers of color, and scholars on the margins of mainstream queer studies. With CPR, Subtext will host a Performance Philosophy Reading Group that incorporates queer, performance, and crip theory and foregrounds the relation between body and text. Subtext is organized by artist and scholar **Sonya Merutka**.

**Starr Reading Series: Marissa Joyce Stamps, Alba Hernández, Divya Mangwani, Daniella De Jesús, Maya Lawson, and Jesús I. Valles**

**Co-Presented with The Bushwick Starr**

**Mon, March 27; Tues, March 28; Weds, March 29; Mon, April 3; Tues, April 4; Weds, April 5 at 7:30 P.M.**

Tickets free with RSVP: <https://2023StarrReadingSeries.eventbrite.com>

Since 2010, **The Bushwick Starr's** annual Starr Reading Series has cultivated a diverse group of writers at all stages of their careers, who approach writing for the theater in thrilling and unexpected ways. Selected through an invited submission process by a rotating committee of curators, currently Jehan O. Young, Elizagrace Madrone, and William Burke, 4-8 playwrights are selected each year, and receive developmental support for a public staged reading of a new, usually unfinished, work. With The Bushwick Starr's new permanent home currently under renovation, the 2023 Starr Reading Series will take place at, and is co-presented by, CPR – Center for Performance Research. Now in its second year, this collaboration unites the process-oriented missions of both organizations, and celebrates the incubation of new, experimental work in performance. The Starr Reading Series has previously supported new plays by writers including Whitney White, Clare Barron, Phillip Howze, Jackie Sibblies Drury, Haruna Lee, and many more. This year's selected works are **Marissa Joyce Stamps: *Letiche and The [Wondrous] Pursuit of Elvis*** (Mar 27), **Alba**

[Hernández: I've Been Giving Puerto Rican History Lessons for Free](#) (Mar 28), [Divya Mangwani: The Nation Needs to Know](#) (Mar 29), [Daniella De Jesús: GOOEY'S TOXIC AQUATIC ADVENTURE at Wasteland!™](#) (presented by amazon) (Apr 3), [Maya Lawson: For Du](#) (Apr 4), and [Jesús I. Valles: untitled table play](#) (Apr 5).

**Jean Carla Rodea: All Your Travels Have Led to This**

**Co-Presented with ISSUE Project Room**

**Fri, April 7 at 8:00 P.M.**

Free with RSVP (tickets released by ISSUE in late-February)

More information: [www.cprnyc.org/events/jeancarlarodea](http://www.cprnyc.org/events/jeancarlarodea)

Co-presented with ISSUE Project Room, **Jean Carla Rodea** presents an evening of new work as part of her/their 2023 ISSUE residency. Rodea is an interdisciplinary artist working with performance, multi-channel sound installation, voice, poetry, and video. Her/their work utilizes electronics, real-time voice processing, and improvisation to deal with problematic socio-political and cultural constructs that are rendered visible through multimedia installation and performance.

**Open Studios curated by Ethan Philbrick**

**Thurs, April 13 at 7:30 P.M.**

Tickets \$0-\$25, pay what you can: <https://openstudios-ethanphilbrick.eventbrite.com>

More information: [www.cprnyc.org/events/openstudios-ethanphilbrick](http://www.cprnyc.org/events/openstudios-ethanphilbrick)

**Ethan Philbrick** will curate Open Studios, which offers artists a place to experiment with new work in an informal setting. With a focus on “listening-writing,” Philbrick will select a group of artists who work in sound to listen alongside one another and share from their writing practices; artists to be announced. Philbrick is a cellist, artist, and writer. His book, *Group Works: Art, Politics, and Collective Ambivalence*, is forthcoming from Fordham University Press (April 2023). Recent projects include *Slow Dances* (with Anh Vo, Tess Dworman, Niall Jones, Tara Aisha Willis, nibia pastrana santiago, and Moriah Evans) at The Kitchen Video Viewing Room (2020) and Montez Press Radio (2022), *DAYS* (with Ned Riseley), *Mutual Aid Among Animals* at the Park Avenue Armory (2022), and *Song in an Expanding Field* at The Poetry Project (2022). He holds a PhD in performance studies from New York University and has taught at Parsons School of Design, Pratt Institute, Muhlenberg College, and New York University.

**Performance Philosophy Reading Group: Movement Workshop with Raymond Pinto**

**Weds, April 26 at 6:00 P.M.**

Free with RSVP: <https://PPRG-RaymondPinto.eventbrite.com>

More information: [www.cprnyc.org/pprg-raymondpinto](http://www.cprnyc.org/pprg-raymondpinto)

For this in-person Performance Philosophy Reading Group facilitated by CPR 2023 Artist-in-Residence **Raymond Pinto**, participants will engage in movement together in a way that is about reading each other, in conversation with a text by Judith Butler, *Bodies in Alliance and the Politics of the Street*. This workshop is a continuation of Pinto’s research for their 2020 multimedia performance titled *Carry My Not Knowing*, which highlights the pinnacle of human decision making in an expressive form. This work is everything and nothing at once, basking in a state of potentiality. The program will explore reading with the full body, and is intended to be inclusive of all bodies, no experience required.

**Workshop: tender forms with Beth Gill**

**Sun, April 30 from 1:00–3:00 P.M.**

Free with RSVP: <https://workshop-tenderformswithbethgill.eventbrite.com>

More information: [www.cprnyc.org/events/workshop-bethgill-tenderforms](http://www.cprnyc.org/events/workshop-bethgill-tenderforms)

*tender forms* is a research-based workshop led by choreographer and CPR 2023 Artist-in-Residence **Beth Gill**. Gill will share and repurpose some of the strategies and technologies she uses in her work towards the creation of large group sculptural events. Participants will play with visualization to access different ways of being in a body and thinking about the body, and will use durational formats to hold explorations and slowness as a way to access detail. The group will explore touch and work with physical contact in the room.



**Open Studios curated by Benjamin Akio Kimitch**

**Thurs, May 4 at 7:30 P.M.**

Tickets \$0-\$25, pay what you can: <https://openstudios-benjaminakiokimitch.eventbrite.com>

More information: [www.cprnyc.org/events/openstudios-benjaminakiokimitch](http://www.cprnyc.org/events/openstudios-benjaminakiokimitch)

**Benjamin Akio Kimitch** will curate Open Studios, which offers artists a place to experiment with new work in an informal setting; artists to be announced. Kimitch is an artist and producer living in Brooklyn, NY. He was a 2021 visiting artist at the Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography at Florida State University and a 2019–21 Movement Research Artist-in-Residence. His choreography has been presented by The Noguchi Museum, and commissioned by Danspace Project, The Kitchen *Dance and Process*, and The Shed as part of Open Call 2022. Alongside his artistic practice, Kimitch is producer for the PAC (Ronald O. Perelman Performing Arts Center) at the World Trade Center.

**Emily Wexler: *Birdsong***

**Thurs, May 11 at 7:30 P.M.**

Tickets: \$0–\$25, pay what you can: <https://emilywexler-birdsong.eventbrite.com>

More info: [www.cprnyc.org/events/emilywexler-birdsong](http://www.cprnyc.org/events/emilywexler-birdsong)

Utilizing the poetics of longing and erosion, *Birdsong* is a multimedia performance work which considers the repetition and reverberation of trauma and the ways that grief and resignation vibrate within us. Working with a variety of materials including clay, water, dirt, and industrial fans, and a multi-generational cast captured on film across several seasons in Prospect Park, this workshop presentation will explore the scaffolding of the work. After generating material and building performances in CPR's spaces for nearly a decade, including as an Artist-in-Residence in 2015 and 2016, this performance is a record of **Emily Wexler's** process in and with CPR, and offers a space for reflection, feedback, and public engagement. The work features a solo performance by Wexler, with on-camera appearances by Chip Alexandria, Courtney Cooke, Canyon Carroll, Ishmael Houston-Jones, Niall Jones, Rachel Orji, Rebecca Pantano, Arabia Richardson, and Song Tucker, costumes by Lily Shell, and a clay sculpture by Jena Gilbert-Merrill.

**Open Studios curated by Malcolm-x Betts**

**Thurs, May 18 at 7:30 P.M.**

Tickets \$0-\$25, pay what you can: <https://openstudios-malcolmxbetts.eventbrite.com>

More information: [www.cprnyc.org/events/openstudios-malcolmxbetts](http://www.cprnyc.org/events/openstudios-malcolmxbetts)

**Malcolm-x Betts** will curate Open Studios, which offers artists a place to experiment with new work in an informal setting; artists to be announced. Betts is a New York-based visual and dance artist who believes that art is a transformative vehicle that brings people and communities together. His artistic work is rooted in investigating embodiment for liberation, Black imagination, and directly engaging with challenges placed on the physical body. He has a community engagement practice allowing artistic freedom and making art accessible to everyone.

**Open Studios curated by Beth Gill**

**Thurs, June 1 at 7:30 P.M.**

Tickets \$0-\$25, pay what you can: <https://openstudios-bethgill.eventbrite.com>

More information: [www.cprnyc.org/events/openstudios-bethgill](http://www.cprnyc.org/events/openstudios-bethgill)

CPR 2023 Artist-in-Residence **Beth Gill** will curate Open Studios, which offers artists a place to experiment with new work in an informal setting; artists to be announced. Gill creates multidisciplinary works that are captivating, cinematic timescapes, the product of long term collaborations with celebrated artists. Her dances are serious, slow moving, and chiseled; meditative experiences poised between performance and visual art. They feel like pressurized objects sustaining tension and seeking release. Paradoxically her work is both intimate and alienated, sensual and ascetic. She dreams and visualizes her dances, transforming her unconscious into iconographic choreography. The imagery and symbolism resonates, inviting audiences into associative thought. In this way her work is in dialogue with contemporary psychology and folk traditions.

### **Sunday Salon – LILLETH: STRATA – performance (in progress) and exhibition**

**Sat, June 10 at 6:30 P.M. (Gallery Hours: 5:00–8:00 P.M.)**

Tickets \$0-\$25, pay what you can: <https://SundaySalon-LILLETH-Strata.eventbrite.com>

More information: [www.cprnyc.org/events/lilleth-strata](http://www.cprnyc.org/events/lilleth-strata)

*STRATA* is a multi-sensory performance, a collective lucid dream, an urgent embodied call to slow down and experience our (be)longing. In this elemental and surrealist myth of recreation, the artists quite literally attempt to reassemble a massive earth body. Inside the matrix of self-abandonment, violence, and ecological catastrophe, can this communal excavation reveal an alternate path towards somatic and interdependent possibility? This in-progress presentation – visioned, choreographed, and directed by CPR 2023 Artist-in-Residence **LILLETH** – is part of Sunday Salon (in this case, happening on a Saturday), a program which supports work at various stages of development by CPR resident artists. To accompany the performance, there will be an exhibition on view in CPR's Storefront Gallery of research, ephemera, objects, and scores on the intersecting scientific methodologies, creation myths, rituals, and somatic practices that inform this work.

### **Performance Philosophy Reading Group with x: When the Curtains Rise and the Protest Begins: Queer/Trans Performance and the Secret of Abolition**

**Weds, June 14 at 6:00 P.M. [virtual]**

Free with RSVP: <https://pprg-x.eventbrite.com>

More information: [www.cprnyc.org/events/pprg-x](http://www.cprnyc.org/events/pprg-x)

Join CPR 2023 Artist-in-Residence **x** for an evening of riveting discussion and digitized riots. Participants will engage in intersectional conversation across gender, race, performance, and the Prison Industrial Complex. While it's no secret that queer and trans Black folk have led revolutions for generations, many of us have dedicated our lives to creating...art. Does a calendar chock full of performances mean we have thrown in the towel? Or can the contemporary push for abolition start in the white box/black box? Utilizing readings and provocative questions posed by **x**, we'll dive in deep. No preparation is needed to attend. This program is open to attendees of all genders and embodiments. Come if you've got things to say; stay if you've got things to learn.

### **Sunday Salon: Orlando Hernández, Eleanor Kipping, Alex Romania**

**Sunday, June 25 at 5:00 P.M.**

Tickets \$0-\$25, pay what you can: <https://sundaysalon-herandez-kipping-romania.eventbrite.com>

More information: [www.cprnyc.org/events/sundaysalon-orlandoherandez-eleanorkipping-alexromania](http://www.cprnyc.org/events/sundaysalon-orlandoherandez-eleanorkipping-alexromania)

Sunday Salon supports work by CPR resident artists at various stages of development, and may take many forms, including presentations of live work, installations, artist talks, and exhibitions of research, materials, and ephemera. This program will feature new work in development by three of CPR's 2023 Artists-in-Residence: **Orlando Hernández** uses technologies of tap dance, improvisation, and mask work to explore/explode myth, identity, and narrative; **Eleanor Kipping** integrates the notion of "virus as other" at the intersections of public health, politics, and stigma through an exploration of Western media, political speech, public persuasion, and propaganda in *[transmission]*; and **Alex Romania** wonders at the idea of 'the sick american psyche' in a fantastic and absurd enactment of the self with *Face Eaters*, the final work in their multidisciplinary triptych *Whoops!*.

### **ABOUT THE 2023 ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE**

The CPR 2023 Artists-in-Residence (AiRs) are **Benae Beamon, Krystal Collins, Beth Gill, Orlando Hernández, Eleanor Kipping, LILLETH, Raymond Pinto, Alex Romania, Oskar Sinclair, and x**. Now in its 12th year, CPR's year-long residency seeks to support a wide range of artists working within various perspectives of contemporary dance, performance, and time-based art, and encourages experimental approaches to content, form, and aesthetic. The program provides artists with the resources, time, and space they need to experiment with their ideas, and creates community around this shared value. AiRs receive heavily subsidized rehearsal space in CPR's studios, a stipend, curatorial and production support, and opportunities to present their work in CPR's curated year-round programming.

Projects and propositions by AiRs form a central part of CPR's public programs, where CPR can offer flexible platforms for presentation and dialogue that respond to artists' needs at various stages of research and artistic creation. For more information about the 2023 AiRs, a press release is available [here](#).

## **ABOUT CPR – CENTER FOR PERFORMANCE RESEARCH**

**CPR – Center for Performance Research** is dedicated to supporting artists in the development of new work in contemporary dance and performance. CPR forefronts the artistic process, and upholds a belief that embodied art forms are vital vessels for creativity, connection, and social change. CPR's programs support artistic creation at all stages of development, and provide artists with a wide range of opportunities for development, experimentation, and exchange. Programs are concentrated in three areas: 1) Artistic residency programs which provide creative and professional development support for a diverse range of artists working across an array of contemporary performance practices; 2) Curated and open call public programs that focus on incubation and research, exposing local audiences and the wider NYC arts field to contemporary performance practice and process; and 3) a Subsidized Space Rental Program which ensures that artists can access affordable space for creation and presentation. To learn more about CPR, please visit [www.cprnyc.org](http://www.cprnyc.org).

CPR is grateful for the support of its funders in making the 2023 Spring Season possible, including foundation support from **Dance/NYC's New York City Dance Rehearsal Space Subsidy Program made possible by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Emma A. Sheaffer Charitable Trust, The Harkness Foundation for Dance, Howard Gilman Foundation, and Mertz Gilmore Foundation**; government support from an **American Rescue Plan** grant administered by the National Endowment for the Arts to support personnel expenses in response to and recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, the **National Endowment for the Arts**, the **New York State Council on the Arts** with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature, public funds from the **New York City Department of Cultural Affairs** in partnership with the City Council, and **Brooklyn Arts Council**; and many generous individual donors and the CPR Board of Directors.

###

[Download](#) a CPR 2023 Spring Season press photo.

**Photo credit:** Alex Romania as part of Open Studios, curated by Tei Blow, presented by CPR – Center for Performance Research on September 29, 2022. Photo by Elyse Mertz.