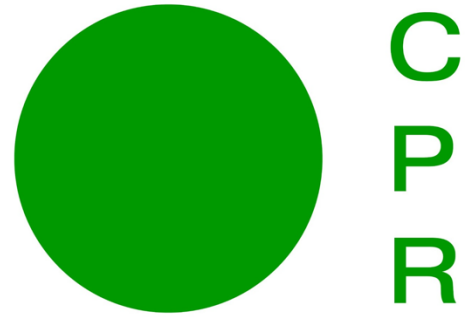


**Open Studios: Vincent Chong + Justin Wong,  
Symara Johnson, and Jacob Walse-Dominguez  
Curated by Benjamin Akio Kimitch**

May 4, 2023 at 7:30 P.M.

CPR – Center for Performance Research  
361 Manhattan Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11211



**Open Studios** is a series of work-in-progress showings held regularly throughout the year, organized by guest curators. The program serves as an incubator for new work, and often includes an opportunity for dialogue or feedback in an informal setting, inviting the public into the artistic process. For this evening, curator **Benjamin Akio Kimitch** has invited contemporary artists who are good company and deeply curious.

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### **Program**

#### **Jacob Walse-Dominguez**

*Maganito* draws from traditional practices learned from Southern Tagalog culture-bearers, as well as Central Kapampangan healers, Tagalog soothsayers, and Maguindanaoan shamans. It integrates pre-colonial Tagalog dance and known rituals, as well as similar rituals found across Philippine cultures, to create a unique and authentic healing ritual. The performance incorporates recorded descriptions of Tagalog rituals by Spanish colonizers, along with existing Tagalog dances and practices from related cultures. By combining these elements, *Maganito* transcends being just a performance and becomes a transformative healing experience.

Raffy Bunal: Collaborator / Movement & Field Research

Kimberly Tate: Collaborator / Movement

Rose Generoso: Collaborator / Music

#### **Symara Johnson**

This work will be a spontaneous performance practice. We will move through ideas quickly, generate on the spot, and move with full abandon. This is a time for ultimate play, we will dive into the unknown together.

#### **Vincent Chong + Justin Wong**

*the shards of our psyches washed to the bottom of the sea after what historians theorize was a grand spectacle of bukkake following some form of a dodgeball game* is a collaboration exploring movement, gay shit, sound, and calligraphy.

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### **Biographies**

I, **Vincent Chong**, am a Queer, mixed-race, Chinese American painter, Chinese calligrapher, seal carver, and performance artist. I have been described by my dear friend, sorority sister, convent sister, and frequent collaborator Wo Chan aka The Illustrious Pearl as a multidisciplinary prop queen, and I find this title to be quite fitting. My practice draws from many different and interconnected interests, but the one which is currently drawing much of my focus is about lineage—how it is that we pass skills, knowledge, emotional understanding, intuition etc. between people throughout time.

**Symara Johnson's** movement practice is multifaceted and draws from a variety of sources. Her foundations in dance began with trainings at the Beijing Dance Academy and SUNY Purchase's Conservatory of Dance, as well as time studying Caribbean dance techniques in Trinidad and Tobago. At present, she is particularly interested in combining the methodologies of folk, improvisation, and modern dance to explore her American and West Indian heritage and merging these movement practices with rigorous archival research.

**Jacob Walse-Dominguez** is a dedicated folk-arts performer and cultural worker mentored by traditional and contemporary culture-bearers from both the Philippine and Indonesian homelands and diaspora. Known and focused on embodying ethno-choreographical and ethnomusical practice to resist colonial indoctrination.

**Justin Wong** is a New York-based artist, educator, researcher, and arts worker. He has collaborated on choral and orchestral compositions and performances by artists including Holly Herndon, Lyra Pramuk, and Colin Self that have been performed at the Wiener Festwoche in Vienna, with the Rundfunkchor and Rundfunk Sinfonieorchester Berlin, and MoMA PS1. His performance practices span voice, movement, electronic and cello performance.

**Sining Kapuluan** (Jacob Walse-Dominguez collaborator) is an NYC-based, queer and trans-centered educational arts group that learns & performs inspired and traditional dances from the Philippines.

I'm Raffy (**Raffy Bunal**) (Jacob Walse-Dominguez collaborator), a cultural worker across oceans and movement artist. Keen to converge and converse in curiosity and compassion. Salamat!

**Kimberly Tate** (she/they) (Jacob Walse-Dominguez collaborator) is a Filipinx multidisciplinary artist, ritualist, and embodied truth-seeker. She was born in Leyte, Philippines, assimilated in the Midwest and is now healing, decolonizing and building life and community on Lenape Land (Brooklyn).

**Rose Generoso** (Jacob Walse-Dominguez collaborator) is a blob in timespace.

**Benjamin Akio Kimitch** (curator) is an artist and producer living in Brooklyn. He recently was a visiting artist at the Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography at Florida State University and a 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 a producer for Perelman Performing Arts Center (PAC NYC) at the World Trade Center.

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## Support

CPR's public programs are directly supported by Howard Gilman Foundation, Mertz Gilmore Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, and public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, as well as by CPR's Board of Directors, and generous individual donors.



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## Up Next at CPR

Open Studios: Bryanna Bradley, Jordan Deal, BríFrei,  
and Nazareth Hassan with Sierra D. Leverett  
Curated by Malcolm-x Betts  
Thurs, May 18 at 7:30 P.M.

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

Visit [www.cprnyc.org/event-calendar](http://www.cprnyc.org/event-calendar) for tickets and  
more information.

You're invited!  
**CPR 2023 Spring Benefit  
DECOMPOSITION**  
Tues, May 23, 2023  
[CPR2023SpringBenefit.eventbrite.com](http://CPR2023SpringBenefit.eventbrite.com)

