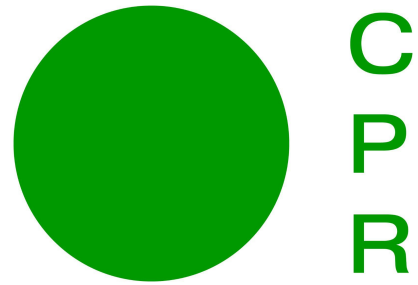


Open Studios: Damariz Damken, Doménica  
García, and Natacha Voliakovsky  
Curated by Doménica García

November 17, 2022 at 7:30 P.M.

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



**CPR 2022 Artist-in-Residence Doménica García** organizes an evening of performance art showcasing the works-in-progress of queer and female identifying Latin American artists. The evening will showcase three new works by **Damariz Damken**, **Natacha Voliakovsky**, and **Doménica García**. In their pieces the artists explore the body from a sculptural lens, generating questions about identity, labor and body liberation.

**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.

## Program

### **Damariz Damken: *Alma de Barro***

This durational performance addresses the endured abuse, violence, and labor that women and femme presenting individuals of color experience within interpersonal and familial dynamics. Burdened to embody the weight of a white supremacist, cis-hetero-patriarchal, neo-colonialist society, our forced resilience and strength is a survival mechanism. These burdens are impossible to sustain, eventually causing a rupture within us and our society. This breaking point can manifest in the deterioration of our physical and spiritual wellbeing. However, this rupture can also occur in our release of the norms and cycles which condition us to believe that we must ceaselessly withstand abuse and violence to maintain the illusion of intact peace and harmony— that we must selflessly place the wellbeing of our oppressors before our own— to such an extent that giving up on these dynamics feels radically wrong. To prefer to break the very thing we've worked so hard to maintain feels counterintuitive because it had such a heavy hand in shaping our

sense of self and identity. There is a guilt and pain in letting go, but this is not ours to feel. To feel guilt and pain in the place of our oppressor is a symptom of their violence. We were placed in such a position to hold and feel for them. Enduring the growing weight of this embodied violence and the fractures it leaves behind speaks to the pain that comes with healing from the things that wound us and cannot be erased once they've left their mark. In the breaking of these constructs is our release and transformation.

### **Natacha Voliakovsky: *A Life Need***

To be alive we need a system that supports our survival. How many more lives are we waiting to lose to the global fight about this life matter?

This action carries a message inserted in the abdomen skin, emulating the flags and insignias used at LGBTQ+ marches in Latin America. This body-area is under jurisdictional regulation by entities of power. The message "Abortion is a life need" penetrates the limits of the flesh and skin. The action demonstrates the institutional abuse of power that takes over our bodies and penetrates the lives of people with fewer resources around the world.

This endurance action aims to show the deep necessity for global laws that protect our survival and the freedom to choose over our own territory.

### **Doménica García**

The infinite cycle of constructing and deconstructing one's identity through knitting. This durational performance explores identity as a layered process that builds upon itself over time. Through the weaving of yarn, the artist explores the complexities and malleability behind their own identity. The large knitting needles and soft yarn address notions of labor and domesticity, highlighting identity as a daily process. Knitting as a performance questions the definition between art and craft, performance and real life, presenting a malleability within the medium and the art itself.

### **Biographies**

**Damariz Damken** (b. 1997, McAllen, TX ) is a self-taught multidisciplinary artist whose work explores Frontera landscapes and identity to reclaim and deconstruct border imaginaries as an approach to process the trauma and open wounds of our past as it exists in the present among us. Born and raised on both sides of the US-Mexico border in the Rio Grande Valley of South Texas, the subject matter of her work ranges in questions

pertaining to reclaiming Frontera identity and traversing the esoteric and liminal spaces of embodied trauma, geography, memory, ritual, femininity and violence that exists within their in-betweens.

Damken is a 2019 EmergeNYC Fellow. Her public performance interventions have taken place at MoMA, Brownsville-Matamoros International Port of Entry, Abrons Arts Center, and Langston Hughes House. In 2019 Damken created Encuentro en la Frontera, a 3-Day Bi-National Art and Activism Festival across the Rio Grande Valley borderlands. She is the recipient of NYU's Schwarzbach Global Impact Award, Zake Morgan Memorial Award for Excellence and Originality in an Honors Thesis, Social Impact Grant, and Dean's Global Research Grant. Damken earned a BA in Latin American Studies and Global Liberal Studies from New York University.

[www.damarizdamken.com](http://www.damarizdamken.com) | @tormentaenllamas

**Doménica García** (b. 1996, Quito, Ecuador) is an Ecuadorian multidisciplinary artist based in New York. Her work delves into a process of introspection, exploring the personal and discovering the universal. With the use of a hyperbolic language and the juxtaposition of the radical with the ordinary, she gives greater relevance to the day-to-day experience. García's multimedia approach, particularly merging performance and digital art, allows her to manipulate the perception of reality, facilitating a fantastic and surreal experience within the rational world.

García's work has been shown in the Atlanta Film Festival, Atlanta, GA; San Diego Latino Film Festival, San Diego, CA; Queens Museum, Queens, NY; Museum of the Moving Image, Queens, NY; Institute of Contemporary Art Boston, Boston, MA; Centro de Arte Contemporáneo de Quito, Quito, EC; Microscope Gallery, New York, NY; Center for Performance Research, Brooklyn, NY; and Granoff Center for the Creative Arts, Providence, RI. García earned a BFA from the School of Visual Arts and is currently pursuing an MFA at Columbia University.

[www.domenicagarcia.com](http://www.domenicagarcia.com) | @domenicamgarcia

**Natacha Voliakovsky** (b. 1988, Buenos Aires, AR) Her/their practice takes place at the intersection of queer-rights, sudaca-feminism and the reclamation for the sovereignty of our own body as an extension of the public space. Using performance as a vehicle for her message, Voliakovsky's work is profoundly related to the South American context and its diaspora's fight towards social change. As a High-Testosterone Jewish woman, their work delves into the use of corporality to generate questions about liberation, reimagination and

shapeshifting of our world into a better one. Aiming towards physiological trauma healing, they explore reaching a state of autonomy within our bodies. Voliakovsky was selected at INVERSE (AR, 2021), Creative Capital Taller (NY, 2020) EMERGENYC at the Hemispheric Institute for Performance and Politics (NYU, 2019), the intensive workshop in performance art at Venice International Performance Art Week (2018), Überbau Haus, Brazil residency (2017) and Sur Polar residency, Antarctica (2014), among others. She's created NVMethod, a series of personal training techniques for performance art. As of 2018, she's the Founder and current Director of Argentina Performance Art, the first research platform on performance art in Argentina.

[www.natachavoliakovsky.com](http://www.natachavoliakovsky.com) | @natachavoliakovsky

## 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.



## Up next at CPR

Fall Movement: Karen Bernard, Barnett Cohen, Cayleen Del Rosario, Muyassar Kurdi, Estrellx Supernova, and Blake Worthey  
December 2 + 3 at 7:30 P.M.

Performance Philosophy Reading Group with Ayano Elson  
December 6 at 6 P.M.

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

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation  
to support CPR's programs and artists!  
[www.cprnyc.org/donate](http://www.cprnyc.org/donate)