

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 6, 2017

EVENTS: Trident Live Arts Series presents performances by Monstah Black and Mx. Oops, and hosts Panel Discussion “The Political Body in Art”; accompanying visual art exhibition *The Political Body* opens at Trident Gallery

DATES / TIMES: Performances: March 31 and April 1, 8:00pm
Panel Discussion: April 1, 4:00pm
Exhibition: March 31 through April 30

LOCATION: Trident Gallery, 189 Main Street / Gloucester MA

COST: \$10 suggested donation for performances; panel discussion free; exhibition free

CONTACTS: Performances & Panel: Sarah Slifer Swift, TLAS-Director@tridentgallery.com, 978-394-5797
Exhibition: Matthew Swift, director@tridentgallery.com, 978-491-7785

New York City performing artists Monstah Black and Mx. Oops come to Gloucester’s Trident Gallery for two nights of performance. Both performers will bring original solo intermedia works that combine dance, live music, and visual art elements to the Trident Live Art Series’ intimate performance setting. Both performance works (together about 60 minutes) will be shown at each performance evening. Seats for the performances may be reserved at <http://trident.gallery/presents/the-political-body/>.

A panel discussion entitled “The Political Body in Art” will be held at Trident Gallery on Saturday, April 1, at 4:00pm to discuss the relationships between art and politics, and how the body can be the vehicle for these interactions. Panelists will be visual artists Gabrielle Barzaghi, Nadine Boughton, and Susan Erony; Gloucester Stage Company Managing Director Jeff Zinn; musician Brian King; and the visiting performers, Monstah Black and Mx. Oops. Trident Live Art Series Director Sarah Slifer Swift will moderate.

The first performance on March 31 coincides with the opening of the **visual art exhibition** *The Political Body* at Trident Gallery, showing visual art which engages with the political dimensions of the human body. Artists represented will include the three visual artists on the panel, other Trident Gallery artists, and artists not before shown at the Gallery. Exhibition hours on Saturday, April 1, are TBD. Exhibition hours from Sunday, April 2, through closing day Sunday, April 30 are Fri 12–7, Sat 10–7, Sun 10–5, Mon 12–5 and by appointment. Extended hours may be announced later, please check the gallery web site at TridentGallery.com.

Monstah Black will present *Cotton*, a dance film accompanied by live musical performance. The work investigates the idea of physical transformation as a source for healing and a means to overcome Post Traumatic Stress Disorder passed on for generations through DNA. Black employs images from slavery as a point of departure, modifying the images into positive iconography to inspire and empower those that suffered and continue to suffer from its ugly legacy.

“It’s a matter of taking the historical facts from the ugly side of history, and then reshaping it for myself and others to achieve empowerment and affirmation,” Black says. “I’m taking the negative, adding magic and making fanciful, majestic, mythological, yet real.”

Black has performed at Art Basel Miami, The Whitney Annual Gala, The Smithsonian, Performa Biennial (NY), Joe’s Pub (NY), Dance New Amsterdam (NY), New York Live Arts, Movement Research (NY), Dixon Place (NY), and Lincoln Center Out Of Doors.

Mx. Oops will present excerpts from the work *Carrying Capacity*. Mixing elements of Vogue, Capoeira, and Yoga, *Carrying Capacity* is a dynamic exploration of embodiment. Mx. Oops tries on sometimes divergent ways of being to clumsily see which might fit. Sudden shifts from intimate, quiet moments to loud, erratic passages illuminate both questions of authenticity and mental health. A collage of personal experiences embrace confusion, defining terrains of shame and pleasure.

Mx. Oops, a transhuman, gender-bending, genre-bending, urban arts shaman is performed by Wendell Cooper. Founder of Complex Stability, Cooper creates interdisciplinary work with a focus on the intersection of urban arts and consciousness studies. *Carrying Capacity* premiered at The American Realness Festival in NYC in January, 2017.

About Trident Gallery

Trident Gallery shows beautiful and intelligent contemporary art in all mediums, emphasizing the work of artists continuing Gloucester's rich legacy as a center for new American Art. Gallery Director Dr. Matthew Swift curates and produces the exhibitions, drawing on over twenty years of multi-disciplinary scholarship, teaching, and creative exploration.

About the Trident Live Art Series

The Trident Live Art Series presents performances by seasoned professionals showing experimental and collaborative work in the intimate salon setting of the gallery. Live Art Series Director Sarah Slifer Swift curates and produces the performances, drawing on over twenty years of experience in the United States and abroad as a dance artist, choreographer, and producer.

About Trident Live Art Series performances

A \$10 suggested donation compensates the artists. Performances of 30–45 minutes are followed by refreshments and informal conversation among guests and artists. (Note: The performances of *The Political Body* will be longer, about 60 minutes.)

Reservations are recommended. To reserve seats, please use the online RSVP form at the bottom of the event's page on the Trident Gallery web site or contact the gallery. Unreserved guests are usually accommodated comfortably: they will be invited to occupy empty seats at the scheduled start time. When seats are fully occupied, standing room and sometimes floor seating are normally available.

If unforeseen circumstances require postponement or cancellation, notices will be posted on the gallery website and social media (Facebook and Twitter).

Founding support for the Live Art Series is provided by Trident Gallery, which furnishes the venue, provides publicity, and guarantees minimum compensation to the performing artists. Supplementary fiscal support in 2015, 2016, and 2017 has been provided by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

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