



LUMEN 2012 International Video and Performance Art Festival

For Immediate Release

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WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ARTISTS GET TO PLAY WITH THE 150,000 TONS OF SALT NOT USED TO MELT SNOW IN NYC THIS WINTER?

**LUMEN 2012 INTERNATIONAL VIDEO AND PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL
SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 6PM – MIDNIGHT (ONE NIGHT ONLY)
ATLANTIC SALT CO., STATEN ISLAND, NY
www.lumenfest.org**

50 + Artists Transform Mountains of Gleaming White Salt, Derelict Historic Buildings, and the Industrial Waterfront of Staten Island into a Surreal and Spectacular Luminous Playground

Presented by Council On the Arts & Humanities for Staten Island (COAHSI)
Curated by Christopher Eamon

Free and open to the public.

15 Minute Walk from SI Ferry + Free Bus Shuttle. Bicycle Valet courtesy Transportation Alternatives.



L: Photo: Paul Moakley, LUMEN view from dock to Kill Van Kull

R: Amanda Morgan, *SYNCHRONICITY NO 2. (TWINS)*, 2012, rendering of projection at Atlantic Salt)

(June 6, 2012 Staten Island, NY) The most unique venue for art this summer will be the site of Atlantic Salt, along the industrial waterfront in Staten Island where over 50 local and international artists will participate in the third annual LUMEN Video and Performance Art Festival. Presented by Council on the Arts & Humanities for Staten Island (COAHSI), the festival takes place on Saturday, June 23, 2012 from 6pm to midnight, and is free and open to the public.

LUMEN 2012 will feature video installations, new media projections, animation, light and sound art, curated by this year's Artistic Director Christopher Eamon, a renowned NYC-based contemporary writer and curator, as well as performances in collaboration with Grace Exhibition Space and COAHSI. In addition to the traditional open call to artists and emphasis on emerging artists, Eamon has invited internationally acclaimed artists to participate, selecting specific works that magnify the spectacular and sublime environment.

The unusually warm and almost snow-free winter this year left the salt reserves overflowing at Atlantic Salt, a company that supplies road salt to New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut – providing this incredibly rare opportunity for artists to sculpt the mountains of salt into projection screens and installation pieces. In addition to the salt, artists and performers will utilize cargo containers, the surrounding disused buildings - some dating from the 1800s, and even dramatically light the Kill Van Kull waterway.

Art highlights include **Marco Brambilla's** *Sea of Tranquility*, which recreates the first U.S. moon landing with time-lapse decay of what was left behind, captures both this otherworldly environment and the decayed ambience of the site. Historic buildings surfaces and passageways offer ideal sites for projections and installations such as **Phillip Stearn's**, *Impact Study*, for which he customized fluorescent tubes to react to the movements of audience members, with each flash of light indicating the presence of a single radioactive particle ending its journey. **Bjorn Melhus'** video, *I'm Not The Enemy*, appropriated audio clips from anti-heroic movies and haunts the space with lingering issues about the impact of war. Subtle and sublime works spread throughout the site include the naturally dyed "colorful puddles" installation by the collaborative team **Olga Ignasiak & Andrzej Sieczkowski (PEyOLE)**. **Tony Oursler** projects a surprise new site-related work.

On "**The Main Stage**," inside an industrial garage, Chris Eamon has curated a selection of new single-channel video by local, national and international artists. The approximately hour-long program, that continuously loops from 6pm – midnight, features about a dozen short works providing a taste of some of the most exciting video art talent today. Highlights include: **Alex Prager's** *Petit Mort*, 2012, a surreal exploration of sexual ecstasy and mortality; **Christine Davis's** *As If His Throat Opened Into The Void of Stars*, 2010, that combines images of the 2010 Icelandic volcano Eyjafjallajökull's eruption with a pole-dancing stripper and rock music; and **Mark Soo's** meditation on the origin of the guillotine entitled *Cuttings*.

Performances and additional projections will take place in the 4,800 sq. ft. "**Salt Garden**", on a 120-ft long, salt pile shaped into an "S" to create separate rooms, on mounds of salt creating different stages, and throughout the site. SI-based artists **Melissa West**, independent mover/choreographer/hooper, and musician **Tom Bones** will present *sunset, recess, gyres* exploring ideas about physical accumulation and moments of intersection. **City Lore and Bowery Arts + Science POEMobile** will feature Staten Island-based heritage-bearers performing poems from Sri Lanka, Liberia and Mexico, accompanied by projections and interspersed by music from Oaxaca.

LUMEN will take place over three acres, exposing the uniqueness of Staten Island's industrial waterfront, its

history and urban decay, and providing stunning backdrop of Manhattan, Brooklyn, and the Statue of Liberty - intermittently vanished by tankers passing through the Kill Van Kull and New York Bay. “Though the selection of works in various media is broader and more eclectic than ever,” stated curator Chris Eamon “the works were chosen to be in tune with the site and provide a sense of being in many connected sites within one larger one. The ambulatory nature of this wonderful post-industrial location on the shore of Staten Island is highlighted in the sense that the passage, from entry gate to the far end of the site, is punctuated with different events, images and happenings.”



Alex Prager, still from *Petit Mort*, 2012

“Atlantic Salt is pleased to host this year’s LUMEN event and give artists access to the massive amounts of leftover salt, in a fascinating range of varieties from the chunky pink salt from Brazil to the fine white salt from Mexico, to create something totally new. We’re excited to see how the artist’s will push the boundaries of their work, and the salt as an artistic material, and we’re looking forward to seeing the dock and facility transformed in such a fantastical way,” stated Dan Adams on behalf of Atlantic Salt.

Now in its third year, Lumen has developed a dedicated and ever expanding following - over 2,000 people attended the one-night festival in 2011, and more than 3,000 are expected to attend this year’s event. “LUMEN 2012 has a new dynamic mix of emerging and established artists in a range of media from Staten Island and around the world showing side by side. The festival kicks off a series of exciting new ventures COAHSI is undertaking this year, including our new Culture Lounge project space at the Staten Island Ferry Terminal opening in Fall 2012,” said Melanie Franklin Cohn, Executive Director, Council On The Arts & Humanities For Staten Island.

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS (click on name to go to artist's website or go to www.lumenfest.org):

- [Marco Brambilla](#)
- [Brian Cavanaugh](#)
- [Rama Chorpash](#)
- [Brendan Coyle](#)
- [DD](#)
- [Ed Davin](#)
- [Christine Davis](#)
- [Cameron Gainer](#)
- [David Galbraith](#)
- [Jeff Gibson](#)
- [Victoria Gibson](#)
- [Niklas Goldbach](#)
- [Jason Irla](#)
- [Steve Jones](#)
- [Steven Lapcevic](#)
- [Bjorn Melhus](#)
- [Amanda Morgan](#)
- [Chee Wang Ng](#)
- [Kelly Oliver and Keary Rosen](#)
- [Tony Oursler](#)
- [Cristina Pavesi](#)
- [Gabriel Comrie Pepin](#)
- [PEyOLE \(Ola Ignasiak & Andrzej Sieczkowski\)](#)
- [POEMobile](#)
- [Alex Prager](#)
- [Marina Roy](#)
- [Mark Soo](#)
- [Phillip David Stearns](#)
- [Rolando Vargas](#)
- [Edmund Varuolo](#)
- [Jeanne Verdoux](#)
- [VolVox Labs](#)
- [Jay Weichun](#)
- [Melissa West](#)

Performance

- Alien Moon Partnership
- Rob Andrews & Rishika Mehrishi
- Creighton Baxter & Hayley Morgenstern (Collaboration)
- Jessica Borusky
- Maia Dolphin-Krute & Bradley Tsalyuk (Collaboration)
- Phill Fryer
- Ryan Hawk
- Sarah Hill
- Sandy Huckleberry
- Rebecca Jampol
- Mari-Navotnay Jones & Cathy Vincevic from Mobius (Collaboration)
- DB Lampman
- Celeste Welch

MORE INFORMATION

www.lumenfest.org provides more information about LUMEN and the artists involved, transportation, and view images from previous years' festivals.

MEDIA INFORMATION, images and interview requests please contact:

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TRANSPORTATION

The Staten Island Ferry runs all night on the ½ hour. The Lumen Festival at the Atlantic Salt facility is a 15 minutes walk from the ferry. Free shuttle transportation meets each ferry, and Bike Valet is provided by Transportation Alternatives. For driving directions go to lumenfest.org

FOOD

Special food trucks will be set up at the event, including Desifood Truck and Wooly Ice. Free watermelon courtesy of Gerardi's Farmers Market and Atlantic Salt.

COAHSI

THE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES FOR STATEN ISLAND (COAHSI) is Staten Island's arts council. COAHSI's new Culture Lounge project space at the Staten Island Ferry Terminal (opening in Fall 2012) will exhibit both international and local artists, including visual artists, poets, musicians, writers, and performers. Culture Lounge will focus on artistic projects that are place-based—examining aspects of local environments and communities. The mission of COAHSI is to cultivate a sustainable and diverse cultural community for the people of Staten Island by: 1) Making the arts accessible to every member of the community; 2) Supporting and building recognition for artistic achievement; and 3) Providing artists, organizations, and arts educators the technical, financial and social resources to encourage cultural production.

2012 Curator: Christopher Eamon www.christophereamon.com

Christopher Eamon is an independent curator and writer. He has curated exhibitions at museums and galleries throughout the world including the Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin; MoMA PS1; the Institute of Contemporary Art, London; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; the Aspen Art Museum, and other major institutions. His publications include [Anthony McCall: the Solid Light Films and Related Works](#) (Northwestern University Press,

Evanston, IL and Steidl, Germany, 2005), writings on film and video art from 1950 to 1980 in Film and Video Art (Tate Publishing, 2009), and is the co-editor, with Stan Douglas, of Art of Projection (Hatje Cantz, 2009), an anthology on the history and significance of projected images from the 18th Century to the present. He is the former director of the distinguished Pamela and Richard Kramlich Collection, San Francisco; and the New Art Trust; and former assistant curator at the Whitney Museum of American Art.

2012 Performance Co-Curators: Grace Exhibition Space www.grace-exhibition-space.com

Grace Exhibition Space, opened in 2006, is the only gallery in New York City devoted exclusively to Contemporary Visual Performance. It presents over 30 curated live performance art exhibitions each year, showcasing new work by more than 400 performance artists from across the United States and the world since 2006. Operated in a Brooklyn-loft the space is directed by Jill McDermid-Hokanson and Erik Hokanson.

SPONSORS

Atlantic Salt, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, Richmond County Savings Bank, Brooklyn Brewery, Green Mountain Energy, Northfield Savings Bank, Forest Haven Center for Music and Dance, Gerardi's Farmer's Market, CLR Printing, Hart and Sol Photography, SMB Studios, Mandolin Brothers, Inc., and individuals like you!

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