

Rockin' Mommy Love

Proposal for Performa 13

Lisa Levy
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The Proposal

CONCEPT:

Rockin' Mommy Love is a performance created to allow people to identify and express their desire to be held, comforted and receive unconditional love as if they were as a young child. I believe that we all have this need inherent in each of us, but must mask it in public, as a display of it makes us vulnerable. Basically, the only sociably acceptable way we can be soothed in this manner is privately with someone we are intimate with or if we are in an extreme crisis in public.

I believe that many of us would enjoy a quick moment of what we call "regression" with no strings attached. As an artist, I am a curious to experience what level people are willing to indulge themselves in my nurturance of them. I know for myself, there are many times I wish being rocked and comforted without judgment,

As with much of the rest of my work, the vehicle to allow all of this to happen is humor.

DESCRIPTION OF PERFORMANCE:

Very simple; I will be wearing a wig, housedress and all the rest of an old lady getup; the point being to put some distance between my real self and the character the subjects will be interacting with. I have a rocking chair, small stool and sign inviting people to sit on my lap while I rock them for a minute or two, I will talk, sing or just say soothing things to them.

PLACEMENT OF PERFORMANCE:

I think the way the public gets access to this work influences the response of the people I will be rocking. I imagine this performance piece taking place in a somewhat high traffic location where people will be walking through. I want people to have the feeling that I am an option in front of them, and that they can sit with me briefly and move on. I want to give people the sense of being greeted or welcomed by me. A hallway or entrance might be good for this although I can be very flexible on options, and can move easily allowing the performance to take place in a variety of locations as well.

As I am not a particularly large person, I will have a stool where people that exceed the 200 lb. weight limit can sit while I rub their back.

Photographs





Testimonial

Left Bank Art Blog

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Bushwick Open Studios - BOS 2012



Lisa Levy, *Rockin' Mommy Love*

The tour started off promising. In front of 56 Bogart, [Lisa Levy](#), costumed in a gray wig, house dress and large eyeglasses, sat in a rocking chair and offered to comfort people. After reassuring me that I wouldn't crush her if I sat in her lap, Levy rocked and hugged me. ... It was wonderful. I loved it! I could have used it again at the end of the day, but she was gone by then.

Artist Statement

I have an exaggerated need to emotionally connect with people in a direct way, which I believe is what drives my work. As a child growing up, I was the black sheep in my environment. I was very shy and isolated. I struggled at making friends. Although I always had a “best friend”, a lot of my routine interactions with people and relationships were not satisfying.

It seems that my work is a reaction to that part of my childhood. I use my work to try to make emotional though platonic connections, even with people I meet casually, which is ridiculous, but I love it. Art is healing; and I am now described as outgoing.

Bio

I'm a conceptual artist, self-proclaimed psychotherapist, performer, and comedian. I've exhibited my work at many venues including White Columns, Artists Space, Printed Matter, The New Museum and the Scope Art Fair. I also co-host Gallery Beat, a video program about art, which you can view online at gallerybeat.net.

In addition to making my own work, I am always looking for different ways to use my creative skills. I have won an Absolut Vodka photography contest with a photo I did in a photo booth, a Hebrew National advertising contest, where I won the top prize of \$83,00 and I also had a turn on David Letterman's Stupid Pet Tricks with my hamster that bowled along with many other strange, random television appearances that I have orchestrated behind the scenes, which can be seen on my YouTube Channel, youtube.com/lisalevy

Currently, the projects I am most involved with are my character, Dr. Lisa, the self-proclaimed psychotherapist who performs psychotherapy on stage as well as giving out “prescriptions” (advice on a prescription pad) and Ego Evaluation Badges from my EE® chart. In the past year, I have also begun an ongoing series of oil paintings called, “The Thoughts in my Head”. They we're recently featured by the website GAWKER; “catchy and colorful paintings present Levy's sage wisdom and personal confessions.”

Currently, as Dr. Lisa I'm doing a residency at Agape where she does psychotherapy and subsequently makes text “portraits” of the sessions.