

THE RITUALISTIC MIRACLE HEART

Installation and Performance

SUNNY BUICK

My project is an installation. Three mixed media, framed "sculpture/object" hanging on black walls, surrounded by either "tears" or "drops" (of blood or honey). Each grouping has it's own color theme, either silver, gold or red. Silver represents tears, gold represents honey, red represents blood. The "sculpture/objects" are made of glitter, found objects (recycled/repurposed), paint, fabric, feathers and Gris-gris, (feminine/magic things found in a Grandma's sewing basket).



"Puddles" of silver, gold and red have fallen below, on the ground under each tableau.

In the middle of the room is an altar and prayer rug.

The altar is made of a small table upon which a collection of objects, talismans, ritualistic tools and offerings are arranged.

There will be a map of these ritual objects, explaining their power and use, meanings and utility. Examples on next page. See Map of Ritual Objects

A live performance will be created where I will act out several ritualistic rites. (Image Lucien Shapiro)

This performance will need to be filmed in the space and later be a part of the installation.

Ritual is repetitive action bringing meaning and order from futility and chaos. A mysterious soothing focus on objects as reminders of teachings.



The spirit of the performance will be in the tradition of performance artist Guillermo Gomez-Pena:

a rebel artist who uses installation, cyber-punk performance and the concept of borders to express radical activism. I also want to use installation, subversion and extreme costumes in the traditions of Burlesque, drag and fetish to create an underground theatrical identity.

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These "sculpture/objects" are inspired by **Milagros** (or **miracle hearts**): Mexican embossed tin hearts that are hung in the home or on an altar to ask God for a miracle, or be thankful for one that has been granted. I identify with the miraculous heart, it's the perfect symbol for what I am feeling, or more precisely a denial of what I am feeling. A desire to feel something else. A self-prescribed form of therapy, after what seems like interminable period of tragedies: personal challenges, external menaces, perceptions mirrored by police violence, horrendous leaders, the soul crushing damage of patriarchy and the planet increasingly in danger.

I am exploring obsession, turning anxieties into a positive and productive activity. Instead of fear and paranoia, I choose to manifest love and miracles. I choose healthier obsessions. Asking in the spirit of generosity for a never ending supply of ardor in my heart, not to hold onto for myself, but regenerative, expanding, and contagious. That eternal yearning, searching for intimacy, the "into me see" connection with others. Asking to have more sympathy for others, affection for others. If showing love is the ritual, sharing love is the offering, love becoming a virus is the reward, the **magic spell**.

I'm calling this kind of work **Ritualistic Art**. My ritual is to choose a theme and explore it thoroughly. I work with an intention to understand what is going on the interior, to create from the center of my emotional being, to objectify the inner states of my soul, to cherish each moment and be present.

I start with a fixed idea and see where it goes, discovering with excitement the unexpected, the unknown. Choosing the detail to pay attention to and then finding it everywhere. Each heart has a different story, illuminates another dark corner, like a candle lit seance.

Creation is divinity manifesting, devotion to the process and the Goddess.

Making art is my way of praying by myself and then finding courage to share with the world. Courage that comes from the heart is my offering.

"The Way of Truth- all things known and cherished by the disciple have the potentiality to become talisman. Spirit/God/higher power is everywhere, even within us. Anything deeply looked at and considered will reveal its magical qualities and help the voyeur to see the god-like qualities within themselves." The Encyclopedia of Tibetan Symbols and Motifs

* Map of Ritual Objects:*

Tiger meditation rug: Transcendence over desire

Card tree: archetypes for body, mind, speech

Dice with colored dots: caressing my destiny (Explore the difference of merit vs. luck)

Devil stool: destroy fear and similar distractions

Orange vase with black cat: for flowers

Flowers: beauty, seeing and appreciating beauty is recognizing the beauty in yourself, the same goes for seeing ugliness

Something to connect to technology (oracle)

Anatomical heart: All these symbols of love the antidote to hate

Prayer Box: requests to spirit to teach, request to remain in this world until lessons are learned, leaving a written prayer in the box fulfills all desires

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Mirror: illusion, clarity

Pearl: essence of the moon, sorrow and purity, Celestial light

Diamond: the mind, a Jewel like quality, indestructible, indivisible, infallible, incorruptible, unchangeable

Rainbow: great perfection, color magic, Spectral, The natural state of the unconscious mind

Amber- the tiger's spirit

Offerings: food, flowers, candles, incense, music (sound, vibration, bell, drum)

Something to pour water: purify Body =purified conduct, purify Speech, purified Words=right speech (no gossip, no criticism), purify Mind= thought of enlightened beings will purify our negative tendencies

Eyes: Visionary landscape

Bottle of tears: (See tears text) [link](#)

Green stone: heart chakra, healing light

Small television: for video performance, Bee magic video, (See bee magic [text](#))

Voice over: prayers to air, fire, earth and water (See [element prayers](#))

Cut-out hands: lost items, assistance



What qualifies me to do this project: I've done 3 installations. Two Day of the dead altars, one at YBCA 1998 and Intersection for the arts 1999. I've also done three performance installations, Cabaret Organique Tattoo Roulotte 2012, See [link](#) to documentation. Performance Interlude Dada, Palais de Tokyo, Yo-yo 2019, Trash Talks lecture/performance at the Wild Weekend Festival 2019 See [link](#) to video

THIS PROJECT ASKS: WHAT IS MAGIC? WHAT IS A MIRACLE HEART? WHAT IS THE POWER OF PRAYER? HOW CAN RITUAL HELP CALM ANXIETY?

Thematic concerns addressed: how to get back to spirituality, how to reconnect with ancestors/past, while projecting towards the future. In my ritualistic life, I reroute obsessive thinking, understand the interconnection of everything and tap into an intimacy with spirit. If I can bring together my personal struggles, hopes, desires, and find solutions and tools to deal with trauma and crisis; then I can harness all that I have learned and risen above, find peace through the process, and bring it together into a cohesive presentation that becomes an immersive experience, cathartic for me as well as the viewer.

If we can accumulate merit through prostrations, offerings, and confession. If we can rejoice in the positive actions of ourself and others. If we can commit to a dedication of merit, then we can transcend the suffering of existence.

Now, more than ever we need to find a salve for our collective anxieties. Fear has pushed out all faith that there is a greater power at work in our lives and in the cosmos. I hope that through discovery, and reflection people can be inspired to build their own sacred ritual space and find healing through creativity.

I will need to film a performance in the space before the inauguration. The room with black walls should be approximately 24 to 40 square meters. I will need theatrical lighting and to make a video of my performance.

I would like to give **workshops** in the space, to teach people how to use objects from their home to make ritual in their life, **as an antidote to anxiety**.

Bibliography:

"Ethno-Techno: Writings on Performance, Activism and Pedagogy", Guillermo Gómez-Peña, Routledge, 2005

"The Encyclopedia of Tibetan Symbols and Motifs", Robert Beer, Shambhala Publications, Inc., 2004

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