

Jonathan VanDyke

*Stranger Suite*

Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 3:30-8:30pm, ongoing

with an additional performance Monday, July 31<sup>st</sup> from 2-5 pm

NYPAC, the New York Performance Artists Collective, is excited to present *The Stranger Suite*, three interrelated, durational performances by Jonathan VanDyke. *The Stranger Suite* is the second work in this summer's *I < 3 Fire Island* performance series.

*The Stranger Suite* revolves around a charged notion of “looking.” It takes its title from the Albert Camus novel *The Stranger*, which features a protagonist increasingly alienated from society. The works transpose this existential framework onto Fire Island settings like the beach and the Meat Rack, inflecting the term “looking” not only with homosexual desire, but more symbolically with searching – both for oneself and for others – calling out, finding a path, losing track, making contact. Sites are marked literally with glances, wandering figures and accumulated paint, which oozes from a totemic sculpture, a woman’s purse, and the costumes of two dancers as they engage each other in both tender and rough physical play.

*Stranger Suite* is variously performed by VanDyke, David Rafael Botana, Bradley Teal Ellis, and Laryssa Husiak, who have been collaborating with the artist for several years. Each intervention employs paint to symbolize something spreadable, like a virus, or something highly charged, like sexuality itself. The medium marks both time and space before succumbing to the elements. *Stranger Suite* is a continuation of VanDyke’s longstanding interest in painting as a performative and relational medium, where he casts painterly abstraction in queer, bodily terms.

Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>

*Figure of a Stranger*, 3:30-8:30 pm

Harbor Walk Beach

(VanDyke)

VanDyke stands in the sand for five hours, located just beneath a totemic structure that constantly drips paint down his back. He gazes out at the horizon as stains of color grow across his torso and paint collects upon his white shorts. He bears witness to passersby, indexing them in silence.

*Wild Combination*, 4:00-7:00 pm

Harbor Walk Beach

(Botana and Ellis)

Two men encounter one another on a rectangle of canvas laid out in the sand. For three hours they perform a physically rigorous game of contact. Their positions with one another shift rapidly – at times they are interlocked in intimacy while at other moments

they face off in conflict. Paint seeps from their costumes, tagging one another's bodies and marking the canvas below.

Monday, July 21<sup>st</sup>

*Self Portrait as My Mother, as an Actress, as a Prostitute, as a Painter, as a Stranger,*

2:00-5:00pm

Various locations in the Meat Rack and beach

(Husiak)

A woman emerges from the forest and wanders along the beach, her face made up as if for the evening. She carries a large purse from which paint is dripping, leaving a trail of small drops of color that accumulate in the sand and are covered by the wind.