

TOPAZ ARTS presents 2024 Spring Salon

June 1, 2024, 2-6pm

In the gallery: 2-4pm

Museo de Pintados: Abang-guard (Maureen Catbagan + Jevijoe Vitug)

Pinta Pintados Workshop

A participatory performance platform along with a special workshop. Influenced by indigenous tattoo mark-making in the Philippines, *Pinta Pintados* is a temporary tattoo workshop using impermanent ink markers. Participate in this museum display format that invites the public to showcase their tattoos, animating Pintados gestures. Pintados is a term used by Spanish colonizers in the 16th century to describe indigenous people with tattooed bodies in the Philippines. Abang-guard is hosted and presented by TOPAZ ARTS, Inc. The workshop facilitated by Queens-based artist Jevijoe Vitug is made possible, in part, by Queens Arts Fund: New Work Grant.

In the studio: 4pm

Studies in Grief and Ease: Mary Prescott

+ new collaborative improvisation with **Paz Tanjuaquio**

A performance of new "Studies in Grief and Ease" by Mary Prescott, a Thai-American interdisciplinary artist, composer, and pianist. Followed by an improvisation of dance and music with choreographer/dancer Paz Tanjuaquio.

4:30pm: **Double Book Launch: Warren Lehrer**

Jericho's Daughter

Riveted in the Word

Featuring multimedia performance/readings by **Warren Lehrer** with Palestinian-American actor/author **Najla Said** (*Jericho's Daughter*), and actor/author/EarSay co-founder **Judith Sloan** (*Riveted in the Word*), followed by a short Q&A with the artists. *Jericho's Daughter* is Lehrer's anti-war, feminist reimagining of the biblical tale of Rahab, illuminated with images by painter **Sharon Horvath**, bound in a dos-à-dos binding. Lehrer's first fully electronic book, *Riveted in the Word*, portrays the journey of a writer regaining language after a devastating stroke; original soundtrack by Andrew Griffin, programmed by **Artemio Morales**.

Paintings in the gallery:

New Series of Paintings by: Todd B. Richmond

acrylic and vinyl on linen, 2024

The 2024 Spring Salon is presented by TOPAZ ARTS, Inc. made possible, in part, by NYS Council on the Arts; New York State DanceForce; NYC Dept. of Cultural Affairs in partnership with City Council.

About the Artists:

Abang-guard is a collaborative project between artists **Maureen Catbagan** and **Jevijoe Vitug** that explores the intersections of immigration, labor, and visibility. Reflecting on the artistic strategies of the avant-garde, they infuse personal history and art practice with theoretical humor to convey the complexity and nuances between cultural production, institutional structures, and the role of labor. The project began in 2017 through their occupation as museum guards. Catbagan received their BFA from SUNY, Binghamton University and MFA from CUNY, The City College. Vitug received his BFA from St. Scholastica's College, Philippines and MFA from San Francisco Art Institute. They are currently recipients of 2024-25 QM-Jerome Foundation Fellowship for Emerging Artists at Queens Museum.

Mary Prescott is a Thai-American interdisciplinary artist, composer, and pianist who explores the foundations and facets of identity and social conditions through experiential performance. Her output includes several large-scale interdisciplinary works, improvised music, opera, sound journaling, film music, solo and chamber concert works. Featured in "21 for '21: Composers and Performers Who Sound Like Tomorrow," The Washington Post describes Mary's work as "a bright light cast forward... uncompromising," and "masterfully envisioned." Mary is an awardee of the McKnight Composer Fellowship, NPN Creation and Development Fund, a New Music USA Project Grant, and many more. Her recent residencies include Camargo, VCCA and Lanesboro Arts. She has been a Mabou Mines SUITE/Space Artist, and a Harlem Stage WaterWorks Emerging Artist. Mary holds piano performance degrees from the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities, and Manhattan School of Music; and is a Steinway Artist.

Warren Lehrer is a NY-based artist and writer known internationally as a pioneer of visual literature and design authorship. His work is acclaimed for its marriage of writing and typography, capturing the shape of thought and speech, and reuniting oral and pictorial traditions of storytelling in books, animations, and performance. Honors include: Center for Book Arts Honoree, Ladislav Sutnar Prize Laureate, Brendan Gill Prize, three AIGA Book Awards, NEA Fellow, NYFA Fellow, grants from Rockefeller, Ford, and Furthermore Foundations. Lehrer is a founding faculty member of SVA's Designer As Author/ Entrepreneur MFA program, Professor Emeritus at SUNY Purchase, and co-founder of EarSay, a non-profit arts organization in Queens, NY. *Jericho's Daughter* and *Riveted in the Word* are his 13th and 14th books. www.warrenlehrer.com



Thank you for joining us!

Support TOPAZ ARTS' 24th Year!

<http://www.topazarts.org/donate/>

TOPAZ ARTS, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization founded in 2000 by Todd B. Richmond (visual artist/composer) and Paz Tanjuaquio (choreographer/dancer) to support the creative process and foster new works in contemporary performance and visual arts. Celebrating 23 years, our programs seek to support the artistic process while engaging creative and cultural exchange with audiences. Since our inception in 2000, TOPAZ has been a vital presence, making an impact on the lives of artists and local community, largely supporting immigrant and BIPOC artists. Through artistic explorations, our vision is to bring works that reveal and inspire new ideas, making cultural connections within NYC.

TOPAZ ARTS public programs are made possible, in part, with support from NYC Department of Cultural Affairs; Cultural Immigrant Initiative in partnership with City Council; NYS Council on the Arts, a state agency. TOPAZ ARTS Dance Program is made possible with support from Dance/NYC with funds from Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; Mertz Gilmore Foundation; NYState DanceForce with funds from NYSCA Dance Program; and by the generosity of private individuals. www.topazarts.org

