

REBECCA CAMACHO PRESENTS

TONY FEHER
Free Fall

11 January through 24 February 2024

Rebecca Camacho Presents is pleased to announce *Free Fall*, an immersive installation by American sculptor Tony Feher (b. 1956 – 2016). Renowned for work that employs quotidian and easily acquired materials that capture the transience of life, Feher's deceptively simple media are specific, sought after, and chosen for their distinct and inimitable formal qualities. The commonality and apparent ease with which Feher's works occupy their environment belie the rigorous nature of a practice driven by an incessant quest for moments of clarity, beauty, and peace.

Tony Feher's site-responsive installation *Free Fall* was originally commissioned by DiverseWorks in Houston, Texas in 2013, occurring simultaneously with Feher's mid-career retrospective at the Blaffer Art Museum at the University of Houston.

Originally composed of dozens of single, clear, partially-filled Aquapod water bottles suspended from the ceiling by individual strands of string, at the close of the DiverseWorks exhibition Feher reconfigured the pods into eight clusters, comprised of between 7 to 10 bottles each. Reinstalled now for the first time in over a decade, the clusters are affixed to the ceiling of the gallery, dangling from architectural compositions of string. Incorporating the ubiquitous plastic water bottle, the work consists of the humble materials that Feher was known for throughout his career. Suspended at varying heights throughout the gallery, viewers are invited to gaze at and through the small bottles while they traverse within, and around, each cluster. Indeed, an awareness of the choreography of our bodily movements through the work as well as the optical possibilities afforded by the clear plastic bottles and clear liquid inside each of them, are intrinsic elements. Clinging together, the weighty bottles could be construed as bodily masses, holding, clutching, supporting one another.

Free Fall was a first for Feher who invited other artists from the Houston area to collaboratively respond to the work through performance, improvisational dance, music, and spoken word, all within the confines of the installation at DiverseWorks. The results varied widely. In keeping with Feher's intention, Rebecca Camacho Presents has programmed two performances to activate the current installation.

On 8 February 2024 at 7:00 p.m Bay Area-based dancers, performers, choreographers and advocates for the Deaf community, Antoine Hunter and Zahna Simon will perform an improvisational duet within *Free Fall*. Hunter and Simon's performance will have an ASL translation.

On 22 February 2024 at 6:30 p.m. Houston-based multi-disciplinary artist Lisa E. Harris will perform within *Free Fall*. Harris performed within the first iteration of *Free Fall* at DiverseWorks in Houston in 2013, and will reconsider that engagement for her activation at Rebecca Camacho Presents.

Tony Feher received his BA from the University of Texas at Austin in 1978. His work has been featured in innumerable solo exhibitions at museums and commercial galleries. Recent exhibitions include Josh Pazda Hiram Butler, Houston (2023); Marc Selwyn Fine Arts, Los Angeles (2023); Gordon Robichaux Gallery, New York (2023); Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York (2022); and Plymouth Rock, Zurich (2019); amongst many others. Feher's work has been in recent group exhibitions at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2023); Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York (2022); Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Alicante, Spain (2022); San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco (2022); and Nevada Museum of Art, Reno (2022); amongst others.

An in-depth retrospective of Feher's work was organized by Claudia Schmuckli, and premiered at the Des Moines Art Center in 2012. The exhibition traveled to the Blaffer Art Museum at the University of Houston; the deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum in Lincoln, MA; the Bronx Museum of the Arts; and the Akron Art Museum. A fully illustrated monograph published by Gregory R. Miller & Co. was published to accompany the survey.

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Selected public collections include Addison Gallery of American Art, Andover, MA; Akron Art Museum, Akron, OH; Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY; The Art Institute of Chicago, IL; Baltimore Museum of Art, MD; Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, TX; Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX; Des Moines Art Center, IA; Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, CA; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, NY; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA; Henry Art Gallery, Seattle, WA; Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY; Indianapolis Museum of Art, IN; Israel Museum, Jerusalem; La Coleccion Jumex, Mexico City; Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, TX; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX; Nevada Museum of Art, NV; Old Jail Art Center, Albany, TX; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, CA; San Jose Museum of Art, CA; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN; Whitney Museum of American Art, NY; Worcester Art Museum, MA.

Rebecca Camacho is an executor of the Tony Feher Estate.

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Oakland native, **Antoine Hunter** aka Purple Fire Crow is an award-winning internationally known Black, Indigenous, Deaf, Disabled, choreographer, dancer, actor, instructor, speaker, producer, and Deaf advocate. He creates opportunities for Disabled, Deaf and hearing artists, produces Deaf-friendly events, and founded the Urban Jazz Dance Company in 2007 and Bay Area International Deaf Dance Festival in 2013. Awards include the 2023 Dance Magazine Awards, 2022 Disability Futures Fellowship, 2021 Dance Teacher Award, 2019 National Dance/USA fellowship recognized by the Mayor of Oakland, 2018 inaugural Jeanette Lomjuo Bremond Humanity Arts Award and 2017 Isadora Duncan (Izzie) for BAIDDF. In response to COVID-19 in July 2020, Hunter founded #DeafWoke, an online talk show that amplifies BIPOC Deaf and Disabled stories as a force for cultural change.



Deaf from birth, **Zahna Simon** is an honored 2018 Changemaker for SF Live Oak School, a professional dancer, choreographer, chemist, avid health nutritionist, Deaf advocate, and consultant. Simon received a BS/BFA in Chemistry and Dance at UCI where she trained with Lisa Naugle and Donald McKayle. She is a former chemist by day at Vertex Pharmaceuticals and dancer by night in San Diego including a feature in KPBS TV/Radio special "Deaf Dancer Performs in Trolley Dances." Simon is the Assistant Director for Urban Jazz Dance Company, the Bay Area International Deaf Dance Festival and full-time office manager at a small fiduciary office. She has performed with Kim Epifano, SF Trolley Dances, Alameda ICW, Man Dance Company and more.

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Lisa E. Harris, Li, is an independent and interdisciplinary artist, creative soprano, performer, composer, improviser, filmmaker, writer, singer/songwriter researcher and educator from Houston Texas. Li's work focuses on the energetic relationships between body, land, spirit, and place. She uses voice, theremin, electronics, movement, improvisation, meditation, and new media to explore healing in performance and living. She received her MA in vocal performance from the Manhattan School of Music in 2004 and a Deep Listening® Certification from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 2017. Li has performed and participated in exhibitions at Carnegie Hall, New York (2023), Blaffer Art Museum, Houston (2022), Moody Center for the Arts, Houston (2021), and RedLine Contemporary Art Center, Denver (2021). She is the recipient of a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship (2022), Brown Foundation Inaugural Affiliate Fellowship at the American Academy in Rome (2021), and Dorothea Tanning Award for Music/Sound from the Foundation for Contemporary Arts (2021). She has participated in residencies, including the Hermitage Artist Retreat (2021), South Arts Jazz Road Creative Residency (2021), Ballroom Sessions—The Farther Place (2021), and A Studio in the Woods (2021). She was a guest lecturer in Harvard University's Department of Music and a research fellow at Harvard ArtLab in 2022. Recent projects include her solo exhibition *Unlit: sof landin* at Ballroom Marfa and *D.R.E.A.M. = A Way to AFRAM* at DiverseWorks.

Photo credits | Antoine Hunter: Mark Kitoaka, Zahna Simon: Mark Kitoaka, Lisa E. Harris: Tamirah Collins

Gallery hours: Thursday, Friday, Saturday 12noon to 5pm