

PRESS RELEASE



Marissa Perel

Solo Exhibition

May 30-June 29 2014

Reception: Friday May 30 6-8PM. Gallery Hours : 11AM-6PM Saturday and Sunday and by appointment. For more information, please contact the gallery at pseudoempire.info@gmail.com.

Pseudo Empire is pleased to present its inaugural exhibition with new works by Marissa Perel.

Drawing from the site of Pseudo Empire as an intimate space for up close and personal viewing, Perel's installation maximizes her personal exposure within a world of discreet objects, images and text. In her performance for video she explores the body as both subject and object, engaging a *flesh-choreography* with glass sculptures of chicken legs. As the artist turns over and folds the sculptures into her skin, she evokes a mysterious landscape where the uncanny is birthed. The sculptures are part of her ongoing exploration of chicken meat—at once consoling and monstrous—as a symbol of matriarchal influences from childhood. At the turn from seduction to suffocation, Perel dares the viewer to step into the real, bringing repressed facts of the body to light. Also featured in the exhibition is her new chapbook of experimental prose, *Angry Ocean*, in a limited edition print from Portable Press at Yo-Yo Labs. The book serves as a textual apparatus that speaks to the unconscious and violent construction and dissolution of identity that is formed from intimate relationships, from the family to lovers. The text renders the body and its relations as alien beings enacting on and surrendering to one another; bad and good, pleasure and displeasure are no longer distinguishable.

Closing performance: Saturday, June 28 7-9 PM at Chez Bushwick, Seating is limited, R.S.V.P required. Perel will present a 2 hour durational work-in-progress performance of *More Than Just a Piece of Sky*, which will be presented at the Chocolate Factory Theater September 17-20 2014. Referencing the 1983 movie musical, *Yentl* by Barbra Streisand, the performance puts feminism, queer desire and crip time in direction conversation with spiritual and sexual transformation. Perel and performers work through cycles of choreography, text and song for a limited engagement meant for an intimate viewing experience.

Marissa Perel is an artist and writer based in Brooklyn, NY. Her interdisciplinary work includes performance, installation, criticism and curatorial projects. Previous installations and performances have been presented internationally, including Dance Theater Workshop (NYC), Danspace Project and The Poetry Project at St. Mark's Church (NY) The Chocolate Factory Theater (NYC), The D.I.V.O Institute (Prague, C.R.), Medium Gallery (Bratislava, Slovakia), and at the MCA (Chicago). Perel recently received a curatorial fellowship for the Fall 2013 season at the Aux Performance Space at Vox Populi gallery in Philadelphia. Previously, she curated Lobby TALKS, a forum for open and in-depth discourse on contemporary issues in dance and performance at New York Live Arts, and events for the 50th Anniversary of Judson Dance Theater in conjunction with Movement Research, including a panel and performance at the New Museum dedicated to the late critic, Jill Johnston, and a live interview with Carolee Schneemann at Judson Memorial Church. She created the column, "Gimme Shelter: Performance Now" for Art21 Magazine, served as co-editor of Critical Correspondence, the on-line dance and performance publication of Movement Research. She received a B.A. in Writing and Literature from the Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics at Naropa University and M.F.A in Studio from the Performance Department at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.