



COLLAPSE (or, falling flat) by NYPAC at Knockdown Center

September 30, 2015

by Pat Rogers

An evening of curated performances presented by the [New York Performance Artists Collective \(NYPAC\)](#) will be presented at the [Knockdown Center](#) in Queens on Saturday, October 3, 2015, at 7 p.m.

“COLLAPSE (or, falling flat)” features Max Steele, Lauren Bakst, Sara Grace Powell and Caitlin Baucom. The work is inspired by the legacy of failure in contemporary art, dance, and performance, as manifested in physical gestures (falling over and misstepping), unrealizable conceptual frameworks, and frustrated ideological objectives.

“COLLAPSE” adopts failure as an artistic model that is itself past its prime, according to the performance collective. They query: “In a context where corporations can be too big to fail, how do technology and politics affect the possibilities of artistic acts of resistance, of therapeutic engagement? In what new ways can we disappoint each other?”



Image courtesy of the New York Performance Artists Collective.

“COLLAPSE” opens with a looped screening of a new video work by [Caitlin Baucom](#). In *Psycho/geographic*, Baucom represents the body as a series of pathologized impulses, broken narratives, and failed social corrections.

Immediately following, [Lauren Bakst](#) presents a performance that combines elements constantly developing in her work: choreographed movements, procedural systems, and dryly humorous shout-outs to internet and pop culture.

[Sara Grace Powell](#) presents a new technologically interrupted work about the vertical integration/synergy of the performance art market. The evening closes with a performance by Max Steele titled “Mad Girl,” a punk show about hell and feminism and mental illness.

All of the artists are well-versed in performance. Lauren Bakst presented performances recently at [The Drawing Center](#) and Pioneer Works in collaboration with Yuri Masnyj. Max Steele’s work has been presented at New Museum, Deitch Projects, BAM, Joe’s Pub, PPOW Gallery and more.

Caitlin Baucom's interdisciplinary work has been staged around the globe including Mana Contemporary (New York), Cock & Bull Theater (Chicago), Stockholm Fringe Festival (Stockholm), Dimanche Rouge Festival (Paris), Verge Fair (Miami) and many others. Sara Grace Powell is a recent MFA graduate from Bard. For full bios on all four artists, click [here](#).

"COLLAPSE" is hosted by [Knockdown Center](#), a 50,000-square foot restored factory set on a gated three-acre lot. Also opening on Saturday at the Knockdown Center is *A Way From Home*, a mobile art project by J. McDonald, which will present a solo sculpture show of his work in "New Environments for the Modern Creature".

When Saturday's performance becomes history, NYPAC's engagement with new avant guard theater pieces does not. This fall, NYPAC will work in developing an ambitious performance-based work with [Oliver Herring](#).

NYPAC is commissioning the artist to produce a work that grows in scope as more individuals become engaged and becomes more complex as individual participation influences its choreography and score. The diverse material produced in the course of these public engagements will be woven together to form the final piece, in which the city itself is a key participant.



Oliver Herring.

Oliver Herring is known for his large-scale, collective art projects that appeal to audiences beyond art world devotees. In recent projects in Tokyo and New York, the works relied on the collaborative cooperation of volunteers and strangers, as well as bureaucratic urban work forces.

New York Performance Artists Collective is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the production, accessibility, and scholarship of performative and intermedia art.

BASIC FACTS: "COLLAPSE (or, falling flat)" by Max Steele, Lauren Bakst, Sara Grace Powell and Caitlin Baucom will be presented on Saturday, October 3, 2015 at 7 p.m at The Knockdown Center, 52-19 Flushing Ave, Queens, NY 11378. Admission is free. RSVPs accepted on Facebook. For information and artist bios, visit www.nypac.org. For information on The Knockdown Center, visit www.knockdown.center.

Visual art on view at The Knockdown Center:

Solo sculpture show by J McDonald "New Environments for the Modern Creature" presented in his mobile art project housing structure *A Way From Home*. From October 3 to 11, 2015.

"Surface Matters" featuring recent work by Brett Day Windham, Carolyn Salas, Daria Irincheeva,

Katie Bell and Leah Dixon. Curated by Holly Shen and Samantha Katz. Through October 17, 2015.

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