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21.01.018

Dear Cassils,

I am writing to make you extend an invitation to participate in an upcoming research and development process in the role of Critical Interlocutor.

I will be in residence at ArtsHouse in Melbourne throughout the month of February, with the support of their CultureLab artistic development program. During which I will be advancing an ongoing critical and choreographic research process into the Ecstatic. This initial phase of research will contribute towards the creation of a new series of live artworks and a body of text, which I expect to complete by the end of 2019.

I have attached an excerpt of the proposal I submitted to ArtsHouse which serves to roughly outline the research area and approach. In summary, I am investigating the Ecstatic as

This process is not defined by a singular discipline or methodology, nor am I seeking a specific outcome at this stage. On the contrary, it is my desire to engage as many differential perspectives on this subject as possible. I have my own thoughts and experiential thoroughfares when it comes to this issue, and it is my intention to utilise the supported space of this residency to agitate and expand upon this knowledge base. In order to service this outcome, I have identified a group of Interlocutors whom I feel could offer unique, thoughtful and rigorous responses to the subject at hand. You are one among that group.

The role of the Interlocutors is to assist in seeding ideas and potentially instigating new research trajectories which might not have occurred to me had I been left to my own devices. In order to lend some clarity to this task, I am asking 7 Interlocutors to make three offerings which they believe might be helpful to my research. They are:

one text: This can be anything. Academic or lyrical writings of any length, a work of art, a cultural artifact (a piece of music, a film, object, etc).

one question: Formulate one critical question for the artist in relation to the topic to assist in directing their research. The artist's responses to these questions may take any form.

one provocation, task, ritual action, practice or experiment, formulated by the interlocutor for the artist/researcher to perform. These can take place in in physical, psychic or discursive space. This task will be documented, however the form the documentation takes is for the artist/researcher to decide.

In return for your work, I can provide a small fee of **400 AUD**.

I guarantee full and appropriate creditation as a consultant and collaborator on the preliminary research phase of the project, as well as any subsequent involvement in production and presentation. Each of the participants will have a biography page of their own on the research blog, which will link to their own work and practice (you can choose to forego this, also. If you prefer to contribute anonymously, that's also fine).

Any specific cultural practices or knowledges that might be shared with me in the process will be properly contextualised and accredited to their source. Any protocols that may exist with regards to cultural or religious content regarded as Sacred will be respectfully upheld.

Residency structure:

For the first phase of the residency, I will be at ArtsHouse, Melbourne, for a total of 15 days, from February 19 - March 04, 2018. I will commit to spending two full working days absorbing and responding to each Interlocutor's content. After the initial 2 weeks, I will be returning to ArtsHouse for a week of solo consolidation and reflection, during which the content, questions and exercises may be returned to.

Each collaborator will be assigned (or can nominate) a day between the February 19th and March 04th. The content must be delivered to me via email no later than 06:00 (AEST) on the day that is assigned. It can be earlier, but it will not be viewed before that time.

It is my intention to create an online archive of both the provocations and responses as the residency progresses.

I am aware that this is a last minute invitation, and appreciate your consideration at such a late hour. If you have any questions regarding the project or the nature of the invitation, do not hesitate to ask. I thank you in advance for your consideration, and for returning your confirmation of interest to me no later than the **2nd of February 2018**.

Warmly,

S.J. Norman.