

Vox Populi Presents

## ***Just In Time: 30 Years of Collective Practice***

Featuring collaborative, intergenerational projects by members and alumni,  
reimagining Vox Populi's collective spirit



### **Group Exhibition & Public Programs**

April 26 - June 23, 2019

### **Opening Celebration**

Friday, April 26, 2019 from 6-10pm

Vox Populi, 319 North 11 Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

<http://www.voxpopuligallery.org>

(PHILADELPHIA, PA — April 2, 2019) — **From April 26 to June 23, 2019**, Vox Populi commemorates three decades of artistic experimentation, community, and change through a new group exhibition and myriad public programs, featuring an intergenerational selection of current and former members of the art collective. Grasping 30 years of practice, Vox Populi celebrates its anniversary with the **special exhibition *Just In Time: 30 Years of Collective Practice* and related performances, workshops, conversations and a forthcoming publication**. The exhibition and programs reiterate Vox Populi's collective spirit while honoring its inception in 1988 as a grassroots organization for emerging artists in Philadelphia.

A **public opening** will be held on **Friday, April 26, 2018 from 6-10pm**. The exhibition and related programs and publication feature contributions from Levi Bentley, Robert Chaney, Laura Heyman, Marie Hinson, Nadia Hironaka, Bea Huff Hunter, Kelsey Halliday Johnson, James Johnson, Matt Kalasky, Erin Murray, Tina Plokarz, Erica Prince, Katie Rauth, Suzanne L. Seesman, Lane Speidel, Mark Stockton, Jim Strong, Matthew Suib, Paul Swenbeck, Aaron Terry, Linda Yun, and Luxin Zhang.

For *Just in Time*, Vox Populi has refreshed its walls, cleaned its floors and installed five new projects in its galleries. Chosen from an open call issued to the collective's current and former members, and selected by guest jurors **Jacque Liu** (artist and Vox alum) and **Li Sumpter**

(artist), Vox Populi has **commissioned five collaborative projects** that are each inspired by the creative and synergetic effects of intergenerationality. The exhibition reflects on the organization's past, present and future, and brings the collective's enduring cultural principles into focus.

*Just In Time* celebrates the present moment: creating a flexible space that allows for unlikely artistic collaboration, development and innovation alike. The exhibition equally recognizes the organization's past: cherishing past accomplishments and highlighting various voices from its ever-revolving membership. Lastly, it probes the future of collectivity: welcoming a dynamic model of dialogue and impulses beyond organizational boundaries into the larger ecosystem of contemporary art.

## **ABOUT THE EXHIBITION**

Based on aesthetic affinities, thematic similarities and structural resemblances, the commissioned projects within *Just in Time* and related programs underscore the value and power of collective practice as much as they emphasize the necessity of experimentation for creative growth and development.

Examining the social dynamics and representations of collectives, Vox Populi's alumni **Nadia Hironaka, Matthew Suib, Mark Stockton** and **Kelsey Halliday Johnson** assemble a visual archive of collective group identity(ies). In photographs and video, they document an index of collectivism through the lenses of activism, arts, politics, and athletics.

Alumni **James Johnson** and **Erin Murray** take a closer look at the historic 319 11th Street warehouse building Vox Populi currently inhabits. While discovering the neglected elements and peripheral features of the building, the artists give shape to the DNA of this iconic organization that has been the backdrop to so many artistic endeavors and, at the same time, question the physical and emotional implications of such art spaces.

Current member **Luxin Zhang** and alumni **Laura Heyman** challenge the assumed hierarchies of intergenerational collaboration in their collaborative video installation. Meeting at Syracuse University, where Heyman teaches and Zhang went to graduate school, the duo reverse their positions as teacher and student, elder and youth, citizen and immigrant as Zhang attempts to teach Heyman how to sing and, in turn, they attempt to teach other family members what they've learned.

Insisting on the collective values of equality and inclusivity, alumni **Erica Prince** and current member **Katie Rauth** join forces for an installation that celebrates feminine rituals, self-love and eccentrically constructed identities.

Current Vox member **Jim Strong**, in collaboration with alumni **Linda Yun, Robert Chaney** and **Paul Swenbeck**, question if the entire world is a stage in their new installation. While literally setting a stage within the gallery, their installation doubles as a performance environment, activated through a series of music, poetry and movement events. A full calendar of performances will be announced soon.

## PROGRAMS

The exhibition is framed by a series of three audio/writing workshops that build towards the production of a community-generated audio tour, lead by alumni **Matt Kalasky** and **Bea Huff Hunter** with current member **Levi Bentley**. The audio tour records the participant's experiences and personal responses to the works on site.

Current member **Lane Speidel** collaborates with alumni **Suzanne L. Seesman** (and Seesman's baby, Frannie Gene Stout) on *Sound Inside You*, two interactive workshops that offer space for intergenerational learning through playful and sensory exploration with sewing and sound sampling.

In late June, current member **Tina Plokarz** and alumni **Suzanne L. Seesman** host an intergenerational round table and potluck with cultural producers and diverse community stakeholders that explores the question: "What is needed to provide a sustainable future in the city of Philadelphia?"

The exhibition and programs are documented in a forthcoming publication, featuring an introduction by Executive Director **Danny Orendorff**, an essay by exhibition jurors **Jacque Liu** and **Li Sumpter** in collaboration with **Tina Plokarz**, as well as testimonials by the exhibiting artists. The publication is designed by current members **Levi Bentley** and **Aaron Terry**.

Additional programs to be announced soon.

*The exhibition and all events are free and open to all—friends, families, art aficionados, activists, and patrons are all welcome.*

**Major support for Vox Populi's 30th Anniversary is kindly provided by the Edna W. Andrade Fund at The Philadelphia Foundation.**

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### **About Vox Populi**

Vox Populi is a Philadelphia-based arts collective supporting the challenging and experimental work of emerging and underrepresented contemporary artists. For 30 years, Vox Populi has brought audiences cutting-edge arts programming, while fostering a supportive environment for artists, curators, and writers to take risks, engage diverse communities, and launch their professional careers.

Vox Populi was founded in 1988. A loose-knit group of Philadelphia artists decided to call a citywide open meeting to discuss non-existent artistic opportunities and to propose a remedy through self-organization. This first meeting for Vox occurred in a space located on the second

floor of 622 S. 4th Street. At the meeting, Vox Populi was formed, and thirty members joined the new collective.

<http://voxpathuligallery.org>

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**Press contact:**

Vox Populi Director, Danny Orendorff: [director@voxpathuligallery.org](mailto:director@voxpathuligallery.org)

Exhibition Manager, Tina Plokarz: [projects@voxpathuligallery.org](mailto:projects@voxpathuligallery.org)