

## **Straight Through the Wall**

Curated by Nic Koller, Jenn Ruff & Emma ZT

### **About Straight Through the Wall**

The sun sets. A small audience gathers on the sidewalk. Other New Yorkers rush past, some without noticing the large projection just above their line of site. Others stop for a couple minutes to take in the spectacle. A video, over two stories tall, glows on a nearby wall.

We are STRAIGHT THROUGH THE WALL, a guerrilla Arts collective that projects video art onto walls throughout NYC. In Fall 2017 & Spring 2018, we've held screenings in the Lower East Side, Bed Stuy, Chelsea, Dumbo, Downtown Brooklyn, Brownsville & Williamsburg. With every screening, we're incorporating art into the cityscape, projecting video on compelling textured surfaces, bringing art out of the rigid structures of galleries & exhibitions, and delivering it directly to people often in neighborhoods with little access to art.

As people, we constantly project our understanding of the world outward. Individual understandings intermix to create a greater shared reality as we come together to form the cities we live in. Still, human knowledge cannot be separated from the human experience. Different realities exist within the scope of our cumulative understanding. With this in mind, STRAIGHT THROUGH THE WALL asked various artists what they want to say about the experience of being human. Here we present their views, intermixed, connected yet separate.

Most participating artists created new video works specifically for our 2017-2018 program. The screening begins with Tracy Abbott Szatan's silhouetted figures in front of windows filled with otherworldly light. *Eythirl*, a study of the power of sight, serves as an appropriate intro to the STTW experience.

Several videos focus on life in New York City, from Sofia Theodore-Pierce's spoken meditation on privacy & performance in the city to Jenn Ruff's *Portait of a Subway*, which examines the rushed moments of our collective commutes in peaceful slow motion. Others, such as Alba Soto & Oscar Vias' shifting, blended *Serpiente Cascabel* ("The Rattlesnake") & Nic Koller's collaged self-portrait, *The Chroniclers*, bring energy to the streets through their quick editing cuts & original soundtracks.

Parts of the program approach “the wall” as installation. In Alexandra Neuman’s slow moving, lo-fi animation *Virtual Mirrors* a woman encounters her reflection in cyberspace and realizes that her appearance is a simulation. Her computer generated voice repeats a Buddhist mantra “This is not mine. This I am not. This is not myself.” over the primordial sound of insects.

Program & Events at: <http://sttw.nyc/>

## Participating Artists & Video Titles:

Tracy Abbott Szatan, *Eyethirl*

Sofia Theodore-Pierce, *Frame*

Jenn Ruff, *Portrait of a Subway*

Clare Rosen, *Untitled*

Alba Soto & Óscar Vías, *Serpiente Cascabel*

Nic Koller, *The Chroniclers*

Raven Jackson, *A Guide to Breathing Underwater*

Tara & Gordon Nelson, *End of Empire*

Alexandra Neuman, *Virtual Mirrors*

Erin Desmond, *On Body On Body*

Dulphe Pinheiro-Machado, *Pendulum II*

Moeinedin Shashaei, *There*



Tracy Abbott Szatan, *Eyethirl* on the Lower East Side



Alba Soto & Oscar Vias, *Serpiente Cascabel* in Bed-Stuy



Sofia Theodore-Pierce, *Frame* in Chelsea