

mobius

boston's artist-run center for experimental work in all media

news noos news nuze news nuhz news nyews nooze news gnus nose news nuz October-November 1988 Vol. 6, #1

A Note from the Director

Eight new artists have joined the Mobius Performing Group! I'd like to introduce them to you. In the course of the coming year, many of them will be producing new work at Mobius, so you can have a chance to see them in action. Meanwhile, here's who they are:

Nancy Adams is a dancer and performance artist, who performs regularly at Mobius and around Boston. Her wacky, graceful, style is a wonderful addition to Mobius. Last year she created a solo performance with aprons, dishes and rhubarb.

Meredith Davis is a sculptor and installation artist from Concord who has shown work all over the greater Boston area. Her use of natural materials and sensitivity to the sites in which she works, result in beautiful, evocative environments.

Scott deLahunta is a dancer and choreographer who has worked extensively in the Boston area, developing original collaborative works, as well as performing with Paula Josa-Jones and Jo Ha Kyu. He is collaborating on a new work with Bob Raymond.

Joanne Guertin Joanne has bravely agreed to work on the newsletter.

T.W. Li, a young video artist, has already made a mark on the Boston video scene. He has also shown work at video festivals in other cities, won a Fusion/Fision grant from Real Art Ways in Hartford and curated *Mega Scan*, a weekend of new video work at Mobius by Boston artists.

Tom Plsek is a composer/trombonist who has been stretching trombones and our concepts of them for years. He has performed at Mobius, and nationally and enjoys collaborating with artists working in other media. Tom is chairman of the brass department at the Berklee College of Music.

Ean White is a performance artist, lighting technician and pyrotechnician who studied at Mass. College of Art Studio for Interrelated Media. He was a member of Boston Performance Artists for years and was a founding member of a/k/a Theater and Perfect Wound. He makes a living doing fireworks displays.

Bart Uchida is an accomplished sculptor, installation artist and occasional performer. He has shown his work all over the world including his homeland, Canada, various places in Europe, and, of course, at Mobius.

--Marilyn Arsem

In This Issue

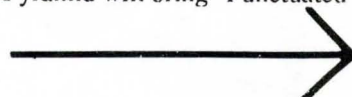
Artists' statements by . . .
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Witham / Marilyn Arsem & Tom
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Mobius Performing Group News

Touring

MPG takes to the road again this year with old works, new works, and to perform in other artists' work.

The '88-'89 season will see a Mass. Council Exchange grant come to fruition. MPG will be taking Marilyn Arsem's "Dreams (breathe/don't breathe) Of Home," Dan Lang's "The Misuse of Tools," Victor Young's "Letters From Japan," and Mario Paoli's "Lot's Wife" to the Pyramid Art Center in Rochester, NY. These works, along with the Mobius audience- interactive classic, "Persephone and Hades," written by S.D. Lydenberg, directed by Marilyn Arsem and featuring David Miller and Mari Novotny-Jones, will travel to the The Lab in San Francisco. We are currently working on securing other gigs in upstate NY and CA to coincide with these exchange projects. In exchange, the.art.re.grup, from The Lab will bring "Prairie Dog Seance" to Mobius this spring and artists from Pyramid will bring "Punctuated



Mobius Performing Group

Nancy Adams
Marilyn Arsem
Meredith Davis
Scott deLahunta
Joan Gale
Dan Lang
T.W. Miller
Laure Liverman
Mari Novotny-Jones
Mario Paoli
Tom Plsek
Bob Raymond
Joanne Guertin Rice
Julie Rochlin
Jonathan Scheuer
Earl Uchida
Ean White
Victor Young

Mobius Staff

Marilyn Arsem, Director
Mary-Charlotte Domandi, Gen. Manager
Nancy Adams, Publicity/Booking

Special Thanks to:

David Miller

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George Moseley, Treasurer
Janie Cohen, Clerk
Marilyn Arsem
Marcia Maglione
Kathryn Sumpter
Elizabeth Wyatt

Mobius (the space) was founded by members of the Mobius Performing Group, as a laboratory for artists experimenting at the boundaries of their disciplines. Mobius provides a forum for audiences and artists actively engaged in the development and critique of new genres of art-making.

Mobius, Inc. is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Mass. Council on the Arts and Humanities, the Boston Arts Lottery Council, The Polaroid Foundation, and generous private support.

Mobius is located at 354 Congress Street, Boston, MA 02210. Tel: (617) 542-7416.

"Equilibrium" sometime in December. We'll keep you posted!

"Persephone and Hades" will also be performed in Northampton at Thornes Marketplace on September 23. Many thanks to Roy Faudree of Noh Theater who helped make all the arrangements.

Marilyn Gottlieb-Roberts of Miami, who created "Clean Break" at Mobius last spring using MPG members, has invited these performers to perform the work at the Birmingham Museum of Art in October and at the New Music America Festival in Miami in December. Joan Gale, Marilyn Arsem and Nancy Adams will perform in Birmingham. Mari Novotny-Jones, Julie Rochlin and Laure Liverman will go to Miami.

New Work

Bob Raymond was awarded a Somerville Arts Lottery grant for an upcoming video and movement collaboration with Scott DeLahunta entitled "Drought." "Drought" will be presented at the Performance Place in Somerville December 15-18.

Joan Gale has been developing a new solo work based on the letters of Karen Blixin to be entitled, "Of Tonic." "Of Tonic," a performance with slides and sound, will be presented at Mobius in January.

Goodbyes

David Miller, a member of MPG since 1980, is leaving Mobius to devote his energies to TheaterWorks, for which he is Associate Director. David will continue working on the newsletter and he'll always be Hades!

Jude Aronstein is leaving Mobius to pursue her work as a therapist, though she will continue dancing. Jude was a member of MPG since 1979 and may just appear in some future Mobius performances.

We will miss them dearly.

Mobius Alumni News

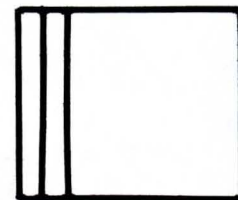
We'd love to hear what other artists who have performed at Mobius are up to, particularly if you have gone on to further develop work once performed here. Drop us a card!

Eric Hughes' "Artificial Stupidity" was a big hit recently at the Culture, Language and Artificial Intelligence Conference in Stockholm. He will present this and other works at the Cambridge Center for Adult Education on Saturday, October 9.

Katherine Finkelppearl, the installation artist behind the muslin transformation of Mobius' front room last February, completed a collaboration with choreographer Beth Soll, which was presented at Jacob's Pillow this summer.

Jo Sandman, who presented "Responses" last January as part of Mobius' Installation series, was selected for the ICA's Boston Now show. Jo's work at the ICA is a development of the caulking on emery paper section of her Mobius piece.

Sound artist Richard Lerman was recently selected as an Artists Foundation Fellow in the New Genres category. Congratulations Richard!



VISUAL ARTISTS FELLOWSHIPS

Grants available for 4 or 8 week residencies: November, and January through April. Open application period, quarterly review. Call or write for application: Vermont Studio Colony / P.O. Box 613 / Johnson, VT 05656 / 802-635-2727

New Music

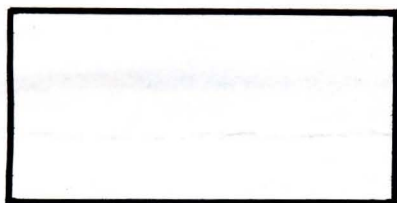
Taylor McLean Quartet

October 7 & 8
November 11 & 12

I'll be presenting two sets of concerts, one with the quartet that has been together now for four years, and the second with an augmented group of players. The basic quartet includes Dominique Eade, voice; Taylor McLean, percussion; Dan O'Brien, bass; and Tom Plsek, trombone. The music is collaborative, spontaneous composition, an unpredictable free jazz that reflects our exploration of risk and trust.

Each set of concerts will be scheduled for two consecutive evenings, to allow for a fuller exploration of the collective improvisation which is the hub of this music.

-- Taylor McLean



Open Studios

Fort Point Arts Community

October 15 & 16, 12-5 pm

The Fort Point Arts Community is hosting its 9th Annual "Open Studios" weekend. The Community will open its doors on October 15th and 16th from noon to 5 pm. This is an opportunity for you to view, discuss and purchase artwork. There will be a nominal admission contribution charge of \$2 (children under 14 free); this will buy an admission button and map, available at information centers throughout the neighborhood. For further information, call FPAC at 423-4299.

Yellow Actions

Marilyn Arsem with Mobius Performing Group & Friends

Open Studios, Oct 15 & 16, 12-5 pm

During Open Studios, some contingent of Mobius and friends will be performing an outdoor scavenger/performance hunt called *Yellow Actions*. The audience will have to discover a certain (as yet to be determined) number of yellow performances around Fort Point and collect clues at each event to win a prize.

This piece is related to several other yellow performances that I've been working on in the past year. In June we did *13 Actions in Yellow*, a series of events with 13 performers, for audiences of one person. We did it on Boston Common for eight different audience people, who later described their experience for video. Sometime this fall I'll be showing an edited version of the interviews, so watch for it in the newsletter. It will also be the first time that the eight audience members and 13 performers will meet each other and be able to compare notes.

Shortly after that we performed 7 *Yellow Actions* at the South Shore Arts Festival. This piece was designed as a scavenger hunt, similar to what we'll be doing at Open Studios. The difference is that the Cohasset piece was for children, so it was simple and easy to win.

For Open Studios we intend to design more difficult and subtle 'yellow actions,' so it will be trickier to find them.

The question will be whether what you see is part of the performance or simply a random, real activity.

One clue now-- consider what you associate with the color yellow, and be sure to include all your senses.

--Marilyn Arsem

A MOBIUS HISTORY IN SLIDES AND SOUND

Organized by Bob Raymond

Open Studios presentation

This year is Mobius' 10th anniversary as a performing group and marks the beginning of our 6th year on Congress St. Bob Raymond, MPG member and chief photo-documentor, recently glanced at our archives and discovered that Mobius has racked up 24 notebooks full of slides, negatives and prints documenting Mobius Performing Group events and the work of hundreds of other Boston, national and international artists who have performed at Mobius. So much of the work presented at Mobius has been visual in nature, whether or not it is categorized as "visual art," that it has lent itself well to photography. Bob will be putting together a show that draws on this rich archive to present an ongoing slide and sound show that will trace Mobius' history of experimental art in all media.

Note: If there are artists out there who have presented work at Mobius and have slides of their work they would like to have considered for inclusion in the show, please call Mobius at 542-7416.



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Mobius Works-in-Progress program #27 is scheduled for sometime in early March 1989. Exact dates will be announced in November. Please submit your proposals for performances (20 min. maximum, low tech) by January 1989. Or call us for details!

FOUR SOLOS

Elizabeth Witham

November 3 - 6

I will be performing a full-length evening of four solo improvisational dance and dance theater pieces, to be presented over the course of four consecutive evenings. These pieces are primarily improvisational, although some have "anchors" or "landmarks" such as props, costuming and/or situational design. The pieces contain movement, voice, and use of the senses. They also present qualities of humor, drama, audience participation, transformation, Authentic Movement, and explore the Five Senses outlined by Dr. Randolph Stone's system of Polarity.

Although these four solos will be presented together, they are to be viewed as separate entities. I am presenting them together as a means of showing my interest in a broad range of possibilities for improvisational performance.

I am interested in performing these pieces over a four evening series because of my increasing interest in performance as process. One very key element to the whole notion of process is the element of time. I am curious to see how these four pieces evolve over the time of four consecutive performances.

I perceive my performance process to be an expansion of my personal processes, which include teaching, therapy, relationships with others, bodywork, recovery from addictive behaviors, and meditation. All of these processes are taking place in my life over varying lengths of time. I am curious about the extent of what can happen in an instant, and letting that be as essential as what takes place over a greater length of time.



Improvisation deals very directly with the issue of time. To improvise with clarity and integrity one needs to be able to be present with themselves moment to moment. When this exists there is a sense of relaxed and ready self-awareness accompanied by curiosity. I practice various improvisational skills in order to develop this sense of connection to Self. To the degree that I can make intelligent, conscious choices spontaneously, I engage both myself and my audience.

Given what I have experienced through the Mobius Works-in-Progress Series, it is my sense that performance as process oriented art is something that Mobius and its audience are in support of. Then I ask myself, is there an art form that is not process oriented and that does not somehow involve the artist's personal process?

-- Elizabeth Witham

Workshop Performances

November 20

Nancy Adams workshop statement:

I have been mulling over some ideas for a new performance. The piece is a essentially a solo but may involve other performers peripherally. All I have now is fragments -- some titles, a costume, a set element and a notebook of notes and pictures.

I continue to focus on costume and materials, at least as starting points. The first costume for this piece includes a white bird cage which I wear over my head. The piece will be set in the round. I may use burlap bags of different colored grains and other foodstuffs as part of the set. I may sing. Someone else may sing.

Possible titles or sections:

Hen House
Dominoe Theory
Clap Up
Limbo
By the Side of the Road
Stir Bird

--Nancy Adams

When you arrived, there was little to be said, but a birth certificate -- when you died, there was much to be said, and a death certificate -- and now you fade like a letter written in pencil. Get up and walk across the room.

-- Joanne Guertin Rice



october 1988

wednesday

thursday

friday

saturday

sunday

7 Taylor McLean Group 8 pm

New Music Dominique Eade:vocals, Taylor McLean: percussion, Dan O'Brien: bass, Tom Plsek: trombone.

8 Taylor McLean Group 8 pm

15 Fort Point Open Studios 12 - 5 pm

Yellow Actions - A series of outdoor performances by Marilyn Arsem and MPG. **Mobius Slide Show** - slide and video show surveying Mobius history of experimental art, installation, video, new music, dance. **Group Show** - Group show of Fort

16 Fort Point Open Studios 12 - 5 pm

27 Works-in-Progress 8 pm

Developing work in all media by MPG as well as Boston and New England artists with an opportunity for discussion.

28 Works-in-Progress 8 pm

29 Works-in-Progress 8 pm

november 1988

3 Four Solos 8 pm

Improvisational dance and dance theatre pieces by Elizabeth Witham, including "Bag Lady", "The Market Piece", "Striped Pajamas", and "Feedback Score".

4 Four Solos 8 pm

5 Four Solos 8 pm

6 Four Solos 8 pm

9 Bones and Bones 8 pm

Mnemonic resonances and more. Performance and New Music collaboration by Marilyn Arsem and Tom Plsek of MPG, utilizing dried animal bones and Plsek's Trom-bone.

10 Bones and Bones 8 pm

11 Taylor McLean Group 8 pm

New Music Dominique Eade:vocals, Taylor McLean: percussion, Dan O'Brien: bass, Tom Plsek: trombone.

12 Taylor McLean Group 8 pm

20 Workshop Performances 8 pm

Developing performance works by Nancy Adams and Joanne Guertin of MPG.

Bones & Bones

Tom Plsek,
trombonist/composer
Marilyn Arsem, performer
Nancy Adams, Taylor
McLean, Larry Johnson -
various performance
devices

November 9 & 10

"It has always been the business of the great seers (known to India as 'rishis,' in biblical terms as 'prophets,' to primitive folk as 'shamans,' and in our own day as 'poets' and 'artists') to perform the work of the first and second functions of a mythology by recognizing through the veil of nature, as viewed in the science of their times, the radiance, terrible yet gentle, of the gentle, of the dark, unspeakable light beyond, and through their words and images to reveal the sense of the vast silence that is the ground of us all and of all beings."

Joseph Campbell. *The Way of the Animal Powers*

"In my opinion, the trombone is the true head of that family of wind instruments which I have named the epic one. It possesses nobility and grandeur to the highest degree; it has all the serious and powerful tones of sublime musical poetry, from religious, calm and imposing accents to savage, orgiastic outbursts. Directed by the will of a master, the trombones can chant like a choir of priests, threaten, utter gloomy sighs, a mournful lament or a bright hymn of glory, they can break forth into awe-inspiring cries and awaken the dead or doom the living with their fearful voices."

Hector Berlioz. *Treatise On Instrumentation*

Three (3) pieces will be performed.

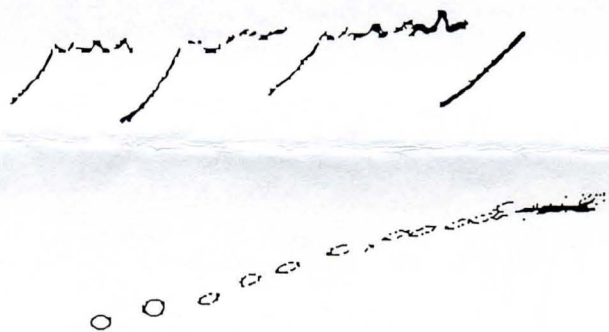
1. Tom Plsek. *The Offering/Ohwiwi No-Otz* : Derived from Cheyenne Sun Dance ceremony: 1988 version [new].

Dualities : extro/introversion
flamboyance/reservation
dispersal/focus
etc./etc

Excerpts:



1. Constipated/Forced : #75-78



2. Tom Plsek. *Mnemonic Resonance*: Transactional exercise involving musician, movement, speech, visual, ...

Is it live or is it "memories?"

Does it matter? Isn't this what we almost always do?

Excerpts:

Universal Set : all one's experiences.

...

Subset 4 : Memory of the moment....the shortest time frame

Memory Assessment Triggers

...will cause a jump from one memory level to another

3. Marilyn Arsem & Tom Plsek. *Bones & Bones*: Marilyn's many bones, my several, and the the Koryaks (including Raven Man/Big Raven, Grass Woman [Persephone in another version], Ememqut, and Spider Woman) supplied the generating forces for this one. Audience involvement affects the outcome.

Questions to consider:

What are bones/bones?

What is their function?

What are their magical properties?

Excerpts: None; a new piece still in formulation

{ A tangential event to our work on this piece occurred at "Jackies" on the corner of Bedford and Chauncy streets in downtown Boston. We were informed by one of the workers that "Books on the table are unhealthy." }

SIM: A Generation of Artists

The Studio for Interrelated Media (SIM) was founded in 1969 by Harris Barron as a means for students at the Massachusetts College of Art to explore ideas and forms outside the boundaries of established artmaking disciplines. It was Harris' idea to provide students with the new technological tools of film, video, audio, light, projected image, and movement as well as to make flexible, open spaces available in which to create and present their work. Harris also envisioned SIM as an environment for artists to discuss ideas, give technical support, and collaborate. He recognized that SIM should function as a working group of artists not only from every level at the college, but the world at large as well.

In the nearly two decades of its existence, SIM has grown from the single room it occupied in a warehouse to the multiple spaces and studios now in use on the Mass Art campus. SIM students have produced a great range of work, from one-person, no-tech events to large-scale multimedia performances involving many performers and technicians. SIM students have worked with professional touring companies and have frequently taken their own performances on the road. SIM has engaged the Boston art community and beyond through its artist-in-residence program and its yearly international festival of media arts, *Eventworks*. Through the years, SIM has changed constantly to meet the needs of its current participants, though it has always reflected the motto that Harris posted on the stage of the Longwood Theatre: *Shared Experience Creates Community*.

A series of events entitled *SIM: A Generation of Artists* is being planned to celebrate SIM's past, present, and future with the ever-expanding community of artists who have contributed to its continued growth and vitality. These events will promote public awareness of the unique resource that is SIM through live performances, workshops, exhibitions, and, of course, parties. The series will also encourage the interaction between previous SIM participants and current SIM students, as well as the entire college.

SIM: A Generation of Artists will occur throughout the month of November 1988 in and around the Mass Art campus. The organizing committee and production staff are composed of alumni/ae and present SIM students. Specific projects in the planning stages include: an exhibit at the Thompson Gallery (November 13-19), many evenings of performance and music, several book projects, an exhibit of memorabilia from past SIM events, a cassette of sound pieces, and a series catalog. The committee is also engaged in the process of gathering information on all past and present SIM participants to be included in the catalog. Look for more information in the next Mobius newsletter.

SIM: A Generation of Artists is dedicated to Harris Barron, SIM founder and nurturer, who will be leaving the college at the close of the Fall semester.



GET ON A PERFORMANCE MAILING LIST!

On June 28, 1988 I began a 555 day, 15 part performance art project called "A Thousand Plateaus". The project is based on a book of the same name by French philosophers Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari. At 37 day intervals I will be giving public or private performances based on one chapter or "Plateau" in the book. The performances will vary in length, form, location, formality and content.

I am compiling a mailing list of people who are interested in being involved with "A Thousand Plateaus". If you put your name and phone number on the list you will be contacted before each performance. You may also be asked to participate in other ways. I might ask you to collect pieces of old glass and mail them to me. The glass would then be part of a future performance.

Send your name and address and phone number to:
Peter Burns
36 Spruce Street
Burlington, VT 05401

Thank You.

FEMME CORE SPACE CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Deadline : October 1st, 1988

Femme Core Space is seeking submissions by lesbian and bisexual women artists for an independent film and video festival to be held on November 20th. The space is located at 464 Harrison Ave. in Boston's South End. Work with overt lesbian or bisexual content is encouraged but is not required. Films and videotapes should be no more than 20 minutes in length. Please call for further information on format and deadline. Women of color are encouraged to contact us. Call: Maryann at 350-7598.



TAKE THE PLUNGE!

DROWN YOURSELF IN EXPERIMENTAL ART!

BE A MOBIUS VOLUNTEER!

- * Artists, learn what they never taught you at Art School (how to do a bulk mailing, write a press release etc.)\
- * Build your arts administration skills and go on to a rewarding, underpaid career.
- * Just do something nice for Mobius

Some things you could do. . .
grant research. . . archive organization .
. . . write articles for the newsletter . . .
paste-up . . . postcard design . . .
postering . . . assist publicist with PR
. . . "backstage & production work . . .
general office work . . . cleaning and
painting . . . more fun.

WE'RE CLEANING OUR MAILING LIST . . .
**DO YOU WANT TO STAY ON
AND STAY TUNED IN?**

If you want to continue to receive the exciting Mobius Newsletter, just send back the post card inside the newsletter.

This will cost you 15¢ and will take one to two minutes. For this effort, you will get regular news about Boston's artist-run center for experimental work in all media and all that is happening here. A good deal, no?

DO IT NOW!

RESPOND OR BE PURGED

You **must** send back the card if you want to stay on the list.

P.S. If you have contributed to Mobius within the last year, we will keep you on the list automatically. We appreciate your support!

MOBIUS

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