



Performing Oceanic Solidarities
September 7th, 2022 - 11am-8pm

DAS Graduate School, Amsterdam

Performing Oceanic Solidarities is a one-day event primarily for the participants of the 3 Masters programs at DAS Graduate School: Theatre, Choreography and Creative Producing.

It is also part of a bigger research project that is just beginning that the ATD Lectorate / DAS Research called *Climate Imaginaries at Sea* (2023-2025). The Research department at the ATD is a partner on this project in collaboration with HvA and the Rietveld, together with other partners including Villa Zapakara in Paramaribo, Suriname.

For the ATD Lectorate contribution to that project, we are exploring how to think about how the arts respond to climate emergency and rising sea levels with an

explicit awareness of the ways in which that topic cannot be addressed separately from discourses around racism, coloniality, and speciesism.

Performing Oceanic Solidarities is a first step into thinking through some of the themes together – through a listening session led by **Rajni Shah** and **Carly Rose Bedford**; a collective embodied reading of *Undrowned: Black Feminist Lessons from Marine Mammals* by Alexis Pauline Gumbs; and by an evening program of performance: the sound installation *dissolution/ dis solution* by **Joy Mariama Smith** and a virtual sharing of *the Whale Whispering project* by **Michaela Harrison**.

Performing Oceanic Solidarities is being co-curated by rajni shah – who is a new tutor on THIRD (our 3rd cycle artistic research program) and Laura Cull Ó Maoilearca, who is Head of DAS and the Lector for the Academy of Theatre & Dance, and produced by Joy Brandsma and Marilix Beernink. With special thanks to the pod hosts who will guide our encounter with *Undrowned*: Flavia Pinheiro, Mikki Stelder, Isis Andreatta; Annick Kleizen; Ainhoa Hernández Escudero; Venuri Perera; and Janne Igbuwe.

PROGRAM

Arrivals - DAS Kitchen

Please arrive in time for us to start the first session at 11am.

11am-1pm Listening sessions led by Rajni Shah and Carly Rose Bedford

@ DAS, Studios 2.06 + 2.09

The intention of the September 7th morning listening sessions is to provide a safer space for participants to voice anything that might be present for them, as an arrival practice before we head into the core activities of the day. The theme of the event is *Performing Oceanic Solidarities*, and there is a clear focus on racism, speciesism, and colonialism within the works being studied and presented. We felt it important to begin the day with a respectful and careful gathering in which participants might feel comfortable to practise listening together. For students who have experienced racialisation, it can be difficult to speak up when within predominantly white spaces. For this reason, we will offer two listening sessions, one led by a white-bodied person (Carly Rose Bedford) and one by a brown-bodied person (Rajni Shah). Both practitioners have extensive experience holding space across difference, and will work collaboratively to plan the sessions. Participants who identify as BIPOC (a term that in itself is contested and rather blunt, but is being used here as shorthand) will be free to choose between the two. We recognise that the division of sessions may

bring up some complex questions in itself, and we consider this to be part of the work.

For more on why it might feel important to work in this way, please read Resmaa Menakem's work, or listen to him speak on Krista Tippett's On Being podcast.

<https://onbeing.org/programs/robin-diangelo-and-resmaa-menakem-towards-a-framework-for-repair/>

1-2pm: Light lunch in DAS Kitchen (vegan)

2-4pm Pod sessions with *Undrowned: Black Feminist Lessons from Marine Mammals* by Alexis Pauline Gumbs

@DAS, Studios 2.09 + 2.06 + 2.14 + 2.15 or outside

For this session, all participants will be invited to join a "pod" – a group of about 6 people, led by a host who will guide the group through an encounter with the book, *Undrowned: Black Feminist Lessons from Marine Mammals* by Alexis Pauline Gumbs

The pod hosts are Isis Andreatta, Flavia Pinheiro, Ainhoa Hernández Escudero; Mikki Stelder; Venuri Perera; Annick Kleizen; and Janne Igbuwe. Pod sessions will either be held in DAS spaces or outdoors.

Please collect a free copy of *Undrowned* from DAS before the event. These are available from the artistic leaders of your programme or from Laura's office (room 2.05 in DAS). There is no expectation for you to read the whole book before the event. Just dive in if you would like.

You may or may not hear from your pod host before the day itself – depending on if they have any particular instructions for you.

4-4.30pm Break in DAS Kitchen

4.30-5pm *dissolution/ dis solution* by Joy Mariama Smith

@DAS Studio 2.17, first run

5-5.30pm *dissolution/ dis solution* by Joy Mariama Smith

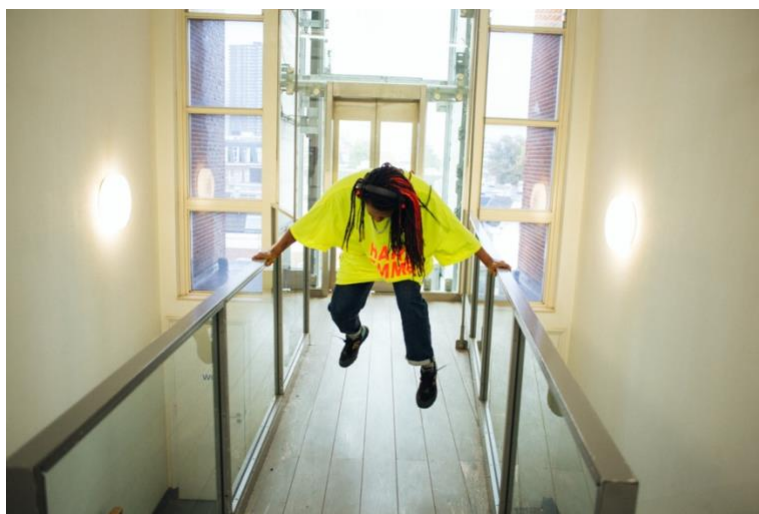
@DAS Studio 2.17, second run

dissolution/ dis solution is a sonic environment, performance installation that explores the healing aspects of the sea in relation to blackness and institutionalized

racism. It is a healing ritual performance working with water, charcoal & salt and sonic & submerging.

references: *Black Pentecostal Breath, In the Wake, Frottage, Undrowned.*

NB. Joy Mariama Smith's piece will be shown twice. You can choose whether to attend the 1st or 2nd showing. Please only attend one showing to allow more people to experience.



A native Philadelphian currently based in Amsterdam, NL, **Joy Mariama Smith's** work primarily addresses the conundrum of projected identities in various contexts. A sub-theme, or ongoing question in their work is: What is the interplay between the body and it's physical environment? Rooted in socially engaged art practice, they are a performance/installation/movement artist , activist, facilitator, curator and architectural designer. They have a strong improvisational practice spanning 20 years. When they choose to teach, they actively try to uphold inclusive spaces.

they/them/their* :third person singular gender-neutral pronoun*(Eng) [hen/hun in Dutch]

5.45-6.45pm: Light dinner in DAS Kitchen (vegan)

6.45-7.45pm: Remote performance/offering by Michaela Harrison on the *Whale Whispering* project

@DAS, Studio 2.09



Michaela Harrison is an international vocalist and healer whose career is rooted in relaying the elevating, transformational power of music through song and supporting others in accessing the fountain of healing energy available in nature through ritual and creative practices. Harrison has facilitated and participated in numerous workshops and retreats and is currently engaged in a project called "Whale Whispering," a musical collaboration on water, healing and ancestry with humpback whales based in Bahia.

To read more about the Whale Whispering project, see:

<https://www.michaelaharrison.org/whale-whispering-1>

There is also a wonderful podcast with Michaela in conversation with adrienne maree brown here:

<https://anchor.fm/emergentstrategy/episodes/What-the-Whales-Tell-Us-with-Michaela-Harrison-e1h5vap/a-a7oni1d>

8pm Close

If you have any questions about the program, please do feel free to email Laura at laura.cull@ahk.nl