DiverseWorks presents

_The Eleventh Hour_

September 7 – October 12, 2013

Opening Reception: Friday, September 6, 7 – 9 pm

_Houston, TX, August 20, 2013_ — DiverseWorks was born out of urgency. Founded in 1982 by a small group of artists determined to create a place that didn’t yet exist in Houston, DiverseWorks was envisioned as a gathering space that fostered and celebrated an artistically restless, intellectually inquisitive, and socially and politically engaged arts community. _The Eleventh Hour_ is an exhibition that seeks to trace this lineage of urgency in DiverseWorks’ programming, from the recent to the distant past.

The issues of the eighties and nineties, the period in which DiverseWorks was most socially and politically vocal, are still being discussed on the local as well as the national stage, often amidst heated debate. _The Eleventh Hour_ shares its title with a now-destroyed 1992 painting by Rachel Hecker that was created in response to a series of censorship and abortion issues unfolding at the time; issues that are clearly still relevant as evidenced by the recent actions of the Texas state legislature and Senator Wendy Davis’ infamous 11-hour filibuster. Whether defending freedom of expression and reproductive rights, confronting violence and poverty, exposing inequities within political and corporate power structures, or championing racial, gender, and sexual equality, DiverseWorks has been an instigator of dialogue and action. Featuring key works from notable exhibitions and video documentation of important performances, _The Eleventh Hour_ also includes audio recordings, photographs, documents, and other ephemera.

Artists featured include Elia Arce, Eric Avery, Johannes Birringer, Mel Chin, Ben DeSoto, Karen Finley, Michael Galbreath, Guillermo Gómez-Peña, the Gorilla Girls/Houston, Deborah Hay, Sharon Hayes, Rachel Hecker, Zhang Huan, Infernal Bridegroom Productions, Rhodessa Jones, William Pope.L, Annie Sprinkle, Mary Ellen Strom, and many others.

While exploring some of the various genealogies that have shaped DiverseWorks’ evolution, _The Eleventh Hour_ also provides an opportunity to move urgent conversations forward and ground the organization in the present moment. Central to the exhibition is a special conference table situated within the galleries that may be used by members of the community to hold public meetings during the course of the exhibition. **Groups and individuals may reserve space between the hours of noon and 5 pm, Thursdays – Saturdays, by emailing Callie Meeks, Visitor Services Associate at callie@diverseworks.org.**

(more)
PROGRAMS
DiverseWorks on Wednesdays (DWOW)
Wednesdays, 6 – 8 pm
Over the course of 30+ years DiverseWorks has been a venue that presents work not being shown anywhere else in the city, a space where artists experiment with new forms and test their ideas publicly, and a forum where urgent political, social, and cultural issues may be addressed. Accompanying the exhibition on Wednesday evenings will be a program of public activities and events to reconsider past issues within a current context and to catalyze meaningful discussions about the role of art, artists, and arts organizations in community activism today.

September 11: Words for Peace

September 18: Freedom of Expression Festival Picnic and Rally – A Restaging

September 25: Literary Reading Event

October 2: Diverse Discourse: Lecture and Studio Visit Series
Chus Martinez, Chief Curator, El Museo del Barrio, New York

October 9: The Best of 12 Minutes Max! and QUAC

IMAGES
jpegs and tifs available for download: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/x6ixsgwrb71nkbm/qazNDFCuFh

Support
DiverseWorks is generously supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Texas Commission on the Arts, the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance, foundations, corporations, businesses, and individuals – including DiverseWorks Members.


Additional In-Kind Support: American Business Machines, Saint Arnold Brewing Company

About DiverseWorks
DiverseWorks is a non-profit art center in Houston, Texas dedicated to commissioning and presenting new visual, performing, and literary art. DiverseWorks is a place where the process of creating art is valued and where artists can test new ideas in the public arena. By encouraging the investigation of current artistic, cultural, and social issues, DiverseWorks builds, educates, and sustains audiences for contemporary art.

DiverseWorks
4102 Fannin, Suite 200
Houston, TX 77004
(entrance on Cleburne between Fannin and Main)
(713) 223-8346
Gallery Hours: Wednesdays, noon – 8 pm / Thursdays – Saturdays, noon – 6 pm / or by appointment
Admission is open to the public and FREE

Facebook: www.facebook.org/diverseworks
Twitter: @DiverseWorks
Web: www.DiverseWorks.org

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