PRESS RELEASE
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DiverseWorks presents
Liz Magic Laser: Tell Me What You Want To Hear
April 6 – May 18, 2013
Opening Reception: Friday, April 5, 7 – 9 pm

(Houston, TX, March 2013) - DiverseWorks is pleased to present Tell Me What You Want To Hear, a commissioned video installation and exhibition by Liz Magic Laser, 2013 Armory Show Commissioned Artist, on view April 6 – May 18, 2013, with an opening reception on Friday, April 5 from 7 – 9 pm. Admission is free.

Liz Magic Laser’s live performances and videos often intervene in public spaces such as banks and movie theaters, and have involved collaborations with actors, dancers, surgeons, market research analysts, and motorcycle gang members. Tell Me What You Want To Hear is a video installation that explores story-telling methods and interview techniques employed by politicians and newsmakers to elicit public support. Utilizing the format of a political talk show, Tell Me What You Want To Hear poses a dialogue between political experts, the television media, and the audience. As in her previous works, this project stages a live situation in which an audience becomes a character in the performance and resulting video. Stemming from an extended residency supported by DiverseWorks and a special academic course sponsored by the Jack J. Valenti School of Communication at the University of Houston, Laser’s project will explore how performance has become integrated into everyday life via television media and politics. Dissecting the emotive strategies used by politicians and newsmakers, Laser exposes how factual information about the state of our political, social, and economic reality is theatrically presented to the public.

Laser’s collaborators in Tell Me What You Want To Hear participated in a series of workshops at Houston Media Source during Laser’s residency in February. These collaborators include Nick Anderson, Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist; Shannon Buggs, journalist and Director of Communications for the University of Houston’s College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences; Felipe Campos, artist, producer, and educator; Maurice Duhon, realtor, former political candidate, musician, and reality TV personality; Lizette Garcia, Broadcast Journalism major at the University of Houston; Linda Lorelle, Emmy Award-winning journalist and former KPRC-TV news anchor; Sue Lovell, former Houston City Council member; and Mustafa Tameez, founder and managing director of Outreach Strategies, one of Texas’ leading public affairs firms.

Laser will stage an interview-format television show, moderated by Shannon Buggs, in which the workshop participants become the subjects. They will be asked to reflect upon their previous on-camera experiences, comparing times when they felt authentic to times when they felt manipulative. In a separate location, an invited audience will be watching and responding via live-feed video. Both performers and audience will be videotaped and edited in real time by Keith Houk and Randy Polk’s communications students at University of Houston’s television studios. The resulting footage will become a multi-channel video installation presented at DiverseWorks. The exhibition will also include
research materials and documentation of Laser’s residency.

_Tell Me What You Want To Hear_ is an extension of Laser’s previous work focused on the relationship between the news media and the public, but marks a new direction by enlisting actual journalists and politicians to perform, rather than actors. This performance will further the potential for chance improvisation beyond her work to date. Rather than tightly scripting her performers, Laser works with newsmakers to perform rehearsed versions of themselves and elicit audience reactions.

**About Liz Magic Laser**

**Resources**
**Hi-Res Images:**
_Tell Me What You Want To Hear_ residency workshop photos:
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/lbpakgb0uotzi48/u9Yl-jix6t

Liz Magic Laser, images of previous works:
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/aqhxq3gd675g7mo/FIZBgVr7Y4

Liz Magic Laser’s website: http://www.lizmagiclaser.com

**Support**
DiverseWorks is a VAN Partner of the Visual Artists Network (VAN). This project is made possible in part through support from the Visual Artists Network Exhibition Residency and the Visual Artists Network Community Fund, which are programs of the National Performance Network. Major contributors are the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the Joan Mitchell Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and the Nathan Cummings Foundation. For more information: www.npnweb.org.

_Tell Me What You Want to Hear_ is presented in collaboration with the University of Houston’s Jack J. Valenti School of Communication. Special thanks to Keith Houk and Randy Polk.

_Tell Me What You Want To Hear_ workshops were generously supported by the Houston Media Source. Special thanks to Tom Richards and James Danner.

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.

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
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Gallery Hours: Wednesdays, noon – 8 pm / Thursdays – Saturdays, noon – 6 pm / or by appointment
Admission is open to the public and FREE

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Web: www.DiverseWorks.org