

aljira A CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

591 Broad Street
Newark, NJ 07102-4403
ph 973 622-1600
fx 973 622-6526
info@aljira.org
www.aljira.org

For Immediate Release

Media Contact:
Edwin Ramoran
Director of Exhibitions and Programs
973 622-1600
eramoran@aljira.org

"I'm always thinking of you even when I'm kissing another boy"

By Ethan Shoshan

In Loving Memory of Israel Julien (1981 – 2009)

On view February 27 through April 17, 2010

Reception: Thursday, March 25, 6:00-9:00pm

Live Storytelling: every Saturday during run of exhibition, 2:00-4:00pm

Intimate Portraits film screening: March 11, 7:00-9:00pm

Newark, New Jersey—Aljira, a Center for Contemporary Art is pleased to bring the latest solo project by Ethan Shoshan. The artist will present an intimate collection of more than 100 objects—some art, some ephemera, some gifted, some found—all of which have a story. In the tradition of oral storytelling, making it both subject and medium, Shoshan presents a narrative for each object on display. Stories range from rhetorical and touching to explicit and provocative; each lending clairvoyance to a voyeuristic experience. Guests have the freedom to peruse the objects and listen to an accompanying audio guide. Shoshan also provides live storytelling performances every Saturday, from 2:00 to 4:00pm.

"I'm always thinking of you even when I'm kissing another boy" includes items given by and/or produced by:

Sur Rodney (Sur), Mark Arthur, Betty Bee, Brian Buczak, Albert Choi, Ms Confidence, Andrew D'Angelo, Niilartey D'Osu, Mike Diana, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Flawless Sabrina, Devon Gallegos, Scott Garner, Gelitin, H R Giger, Noam Gonick & Luis Jacob, Bibbe Hansen, Geoffrey Hendricks, David Henshaw, Christian Holstad, Jenny Holzer, Kate Huh, Inbred Hybrid Collective & Les Simpson, Derek Jackson, Geraldine Juárez, Israel Julien, Marek Kukumberg, Glenn Ligon, Tim Loque, Shane Luitjens, Jack Waters & Peter Cramer, Amanda Matles & Jan Baracz, Scott Matthew, Wangechi Mutu, MR NVR.COM, Morgan O'Hara, Rios O'Leary-Tagiuri, Yoko Ono, Carlo Quispe, Michael S, Joshua

Safdie, Desi Santiago & David Menkes, Ryan Schneider, Emily Severance, George Spencer, TABBOO!, Christopher Tanner, Gail Thacker, The Yes Men, Paul Thek, Robert Warner, Dennis Weddle, May Wilson, and Sara Wolfe.

Public Program: *Intimage Portraits*

Co-presented by MIX New York Queer Experimental Film Festival

The *Intimate Portraits* film screening presents a series of autobiographical stories of personal, social, and political experiences confronting relationships of desire and alienation. Works are by artists Jamika Ajalon, Dino Dinco, Mónica Enríquez, Leor Grady, Dana Inkster, Vince Mascoli, Nguyen Tan Hoang, Matt Palazzolo, Timothy Smith, and X'Ho.

About the Artist

Ethan Shoshan is a social ecologist and multi-media artist born in Brooklyn, NY in 1980. His works utilize many platforms using visual media, performance, sound, video, installation, wearables, and food. He has written and published an imaginative post-critical novel on love as well as astrophysics research on energy disturbance with Princeton University. He is a collaborator/co-founder of the it/EQ Community Arts Collective, working to promote arts/artists in a community exchange through showcasing vital unknown artists, providing multicultural exchanges, and visibility to minority or underrepresented people. He has exhibited and performed on the streets and at the Kitchen, Envoy Enterprises, Momenta Art, Collective Unconscious, Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance, Dixon Place, Galeria De La Raza, Le Petit Versailles, Issue Project Room, ABC No Rio, Judson Memorial Church, 92nd St Y, and other venues in New York, Washington DC, Chicago, and San Francisco. His previous projects have been reviewed in The New York Times, Art In America, BlackBook, The NJ Star Ledger, The Brooklyn Rail, Artforum, Washington Post and have aired on Manhattan Neighborhood Networks, Bronx Cable TV, and Brooklyn Cable Access. He was the recipient of grant from the Puffin Foundation for his community-based projects. He is currently living and working in New York City as yoga practitioner, macrobiotic chef and volunteering for various community organizations.

Audio Engineer: Pete Gianguzzi

Special thanks to Rich Anzovino, David Boutte, Young Chung, Sylvie Degiez, Barry Frier, Andrew Galli, Kris Goojha, David Guffey, Wayne Lopes, Stefani Mar, Patrick Monaghan, Amy Sadao, Sur Rodney (Sur), and Nodeth Vang

About Aljira, a Center for Contemporary Art

Aljira, a Center for Contemporary Art fosters excellence in the visual arts through exhibitions and educational programs that serve as catalysts for inclusiveness and diversity, promote cross-cultural dialog, and enable us to better understand the time in which we live. Public understanding and support of the visual arts are strengthened through collaboration and community-based educational programming. Aljira seeks out the work of emerging and underrepresented artists

and brings the work of more established artists to our community. Through the visual arts Aljira bridges racial, cultural and ethnic divides and enriches the lives of individuals.

About MIX NYC

MIX New York Queer Experimental Film Festival is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization that promotes, presents and preserves the work of experimental LGBT artists, and is a venue for the emerging and established artists whose innovative work is not at home in the mainstream. Over the years, MIX has shown the work of such artists as Isaac Julien, David Wojnarowicz, Jennie Livingston, Todd Haynes, Zoe Leonard, Chantal Akerman, Ulrike Ottinger and many more.

MIX discovered Jonathan Caouette and helped him finish his film *Tarnation*, acting as a producer, hooking him up with editors, executive producers and more, helping the film, on its journey to Cannes and a world-wide acclaim. Miranda July appeared at MIX in 1996, and later was at Lincoln Center before making her feature debut in 2005. MIX is unique among arts and community-building organizations for its work on behalf of queer experimental media artists, supporting their production of new work, and making that work accessible to the public. MIX also preserves aging queer experimental films, such as the early 16mm work of Marguerite Paris, to guarantee its endurance for the future and records the history of AIDS activism with the ACT UP Oral History Project. Our preservation efforts are in conjunction with the New York Public Library and other institutions. In addition, MIX NYC trains at-risk youth with its free Different Take program with a summer-long youth media training program to provide a new generation of queer filmmakers with the tools they need to make their voices heard.

www.mixnyc.org

Aljira is located at 591 Broad Street in downtown Newark. For directions visit our website at www.aljira.org. The Center is open Wednesday through Friday, 12–6 pm and Saturday, 11 am–4 pm. General admission is \$3, \$2 for seniors and students, free for children 12 years old or under accompanied by an adult. Phone 973 622-1600, fax 973 622-6526, www.aljira.org

Aljira's operations and programs are made possible, in part, by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts; The Kenneth Aidekman Family Foundation; Bank of America; JPMorgan Chase Foundation; The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation; Johnson & Johnson; National Endowment for the Arts; New Jersey Cultural Trust; The Prudential Foundation; PSEG Foundation; The Starry Night Fund of Tides Foundation; The Turrell Fund; The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; and individual contributors to our Annual Fund.

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