

PRESS RELEASE

RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART EXHIBITION REVEALS NEPAL'S IMPACT ON
THE ART AND LIFE OF GENESIS BREYER P-ORRIDGE

Opening March 11, 2016, "Try to Altar Everything" explores the role of devotion, ritual, Hindu mythology, and gender identity in the artist's practice

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New York, NY (October 13, 2015) – Incorporating new works produced in Nepal this fall, as well as two site-specific installations, The Rubin Museum of Art will present "Try to Altar Everything," a selection of paintings, sculptures, and installations by the artist Genesis Breyer P-Orridge. On view from March 11-August 1, 2016, the exhibition will explore the ways that Hindu mythology and Nepal's Kathmandu valley have impacted the artist and h/er work, and offer opportunities for visitors to personally connect with the artist.

In h/er work, Breyer P-Orridge questions the very nature of identity, and s/he invites transformation of both h/erself and h/er audience through h/er wide range of artistic endeavors. H/er paintings and sculptures emerge primarily from a mythology of creation, re-creation, and sublimation of identity, and upon closer inspection, also include visual elements that relate to traditional Himalayan art.

Until now, Breyer P-Orridge's connection to Nepal has never before been explored in a comprehensive exhibition. Organized by Rubin Museum curator Beth Citron, "Try to Altar Everything" features more than 30 works of art that tie together Nepalese approaches to identity and religion with Breyer P-Orridge's own mythology and approach, itself grounded in devotion and ritual. Hybrid traditions are a fixture of life and culture in Nepal, as people may even identify as Hindu and Buddhist at the same time. This idea resonates with Breyer P-Orridge and h/er late wife Lady Jaye, who each underwent physical alterations to create an elective and creative gender-bending identity through their project of pandrogyny. In addition to these connections in h/er art, Breyer P-Orridge is invested in broader community efforts in Kathmandu. S/he has lived and worked in the Kathmandu Valley at various points over the past thirty years, and her contributions in Nepal have included social and philanthropic efforts such as funding clean water for a monastery and running a large soup kitchen at Bodhnath Stupa that fed 300-400 people daily.

Citron and the artist will visit Nepal in October 2015 to create new works in Kathmandu for the exhibition.

“Like much of the art in the Rubin collection, Genesis Breyer P-Orridge’s work bridges the spiritual, material, and physical and conveys how these often overlap,” Citron said. “With both serious and playful takes on religious iconography, h/er work deftly connects concepts of physical presence and absence, individual beliefs, and what it means to be devoted to an ideal. Though h/er work is deeply personal, it also demonstrates the universal nature of these questions and encourages us to confront them as well.”

At the Rubin Museum, visitors will also have opportunities to personally interact with the artist and engage with the exhibition’s provoking themes of self-expression and devotion through participatory elements. The exhibition space itself will become an altar of sorts, where visitors can bring offerings to contribute, and receive a token from Breyer P-Orridge in return. Breyer P-Orridge will also spend periods of time in the exhibition space interacting with live and virtual visitors. In conjunction with the exhibition, the Rubin Museum will also host a series of related programs, including an Artists on Art talk series and three performances by the artist h/erself.

Works in the exhibition will include:



From left to right:

Try to Altar Everything, 1999, Mixed media, 14 x 11 inches,

Feeding the Fishes, 2010, Fish, glitter, photos, tooth mold, copper ball, found wood box, 11 x 5 inches,

Cruciform (Sigil Working), 2005, Polaroids, gold leaf, c-print on plexi, 70 x 54 inches, BPO08 6

About Genesis Breyer P-Orridge

The cultural engineer Genesis Breyer P-Orridge (b. Britain, 1950) is an avant-garde anti-hero whose remarkable body of work reminds us that when you believe something, artistic integrity demands that you live by it too. Breyer P-Orridge is one of the most rigorous and relentless agents of the postwar Anglo-American vanguard, questioning the meaning and substance of identity in a peerless half-century program of willful reincarnation and shape-shifting. Embracing the body as not simply the vessel but the site of the avant-garde impulse, Breyer P-Orridge has reinvented and reintroduced h/erself again and again – as Fluxus pioneer, groundbreaking performance artist, inventor of industrial music, “wrecker of

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civilization,” essayist and theoretician, and, most recently, with her late wife Lady Jaye as pandrogyné. Breyer P-Orridge’s work has been the subject of numerous international exhibitions, including recently “S/he is Her/e” at the Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh (2013), and “Life Is A Cheap Suitcase” at Summerhall, Edinburgh (2014). S/he has also received recognition from such institutions as Tate Britain, which acquired h/er archives for its collection.

About Beth Citron

Beth Citron is the Curator, Modern and Contemporary Art at the Rubin Museum in New York. In 2014 she organized "Francesco Clemente: Inspired by India" and "Witness at a Crossroads: Photographer Marc Riboud in Asia," both at the museum. For the museum, she also organized a three part exhibition series "Modernist Art from India" (2011-13) and, with Rahaab Allana of the Alkazi Foundation, "Allegory and Illusion: Early Portrait Photography from South Asia" (2013). She completed a Ph.D. in Contemporary Art in Bombay at the University of Pennsylvania, and has taught in the Art History Department at New York University, from which she also earned a B.A. in Fine Arts.

About the Rubin Museum of Art

The Rubin Museum of Art is an arts oasis and cultural hub in New York City’s vibrant Chelsea neighborhood that inspires visitors to make powerful connections between contemporary life and the art and ideas of the Himalayas, India, and neighboring regions. With a diverse array of thought-provoking exhibitions and programs—including films, concerts, and on-stage conversations—the Rubin provides immersive experiences that encourage personal discoveries and spark new ways of seeing the world. Emphasizing cross-cultural connections, the Rubin is a space to contemplate the big questions that extend across history and span human cultures.

The Rubin Museum’s preeminent collection includes over 3,200 objects spanning more than 1,500 years to the present day. Included are works of art of great quality and depth from the Tibetan plateau, with examples from surrounding regions including Nepal, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, China and Mongolia.

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