

# NIGHT GALLERY

2276 E. 16th Street, Los Angeles, California 90021

nightgallery.ca

## **Delusionarium 5 (Adaptation)**

Curated by Jesse Benson & Becky Koblick

May 15 – June 12, 2021

*Delusionarium 5 (Adaptation)* will open across two Los Angeles exhibition spaces, Night Gallery and as-is.la, on May 15, 2021 and will run through June 12.

The project has been in the works for years, co-curated by Jesse Benson and Becky Koblick with essential input from Davida Nemeroff, and an exhibition-within-the-exhibition *Flame from the Dark Tower* collaboratively organized by Leila Weefur and 5/5 Collective at as-is.la, as well an active publication accompaniment.

*D5* is part of a nomadic group exhibition series initiated by Benson in 2004, playing off biennial structures but not bound to any regular pattern of emergence, and organized not around a concept or formal principle, but through a supportive social structure. After a 13-year hiatus *Delusionarium* has returned.

Iterations in the series evolve organically and contrasting elements are embraced, allowing contributors to include essentially anything they want to. A vaguely established thread connects and supports all moments within the series, without a harnessing effect. The nomadic nature of the series allows for new contexts and illuminates the specificity of each site and situation without asking artists to work in situ.

*Delusionariums* often use loose subtitles that aren't thematically restrictive. The subtitle for *D5* was provided by Nemeroff back in 2019, mentioning at the time that she had been thinking about adaptation. An amazing premonition, given the enormous rate of change we all experienced in the subsequent years. Originally scheduled and announced to open April 2020, *D5* had to adapt to survive like everything else.

*D5* will include a type of exhibition catalog that will exist in two forms. In addition to a new text by Anthony Carfello, the publication will feature contributions from the exhibiting artists and dozens of additional participants.

*Delusionarium* is specific to its moment in history. In its infancy the series anticipated the collapse of roles, self-publishing, and DIY culture of our contemporary moment. Before fairs, gallery shares and gig culture had all become ubiquitous *Delusionarium* worked toward shared economies of space and labor both to amplify the visibility of platforms and to investigate collaborative exhibition models. Night Gallery and as-is.la were chosen for their programs, spaces, and histories as contributors to the cultural landscape of Los Angeles. A future *D6* could exist anywhere.

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## *Delusionarium 5 (Adaptation)*

Shagha Arianna  
Cara Benedetto  
Jesse Benson  
Tanyth Berkeley  
Hildegarde Duane  
Benjamin Echeverria  
Elizabeth Englander  
Elif Erkan  
Awol Erizku  
Mark Flores  
Daniel T. Gaitor-Lomack  
William E. Jones  
Sean Kennedy  
Tom Krumpak  
Tory J. Lowitz  
Brian Mann  
Star Montana  
David Muenzer  
Jeanette Mundt  
D'Ette Nogle  
Catalina Ouyang  
Puppies Puppies (Jade Kuriki Olivo)  
Mark Roeder  
Michael E. Smith  
Peter Wächtler  
Leila Weefur and 5/5 Collective  
Takako Yamaguchi

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**Jesse Benson** is an artist currently based in Oakland. His work has exhibited internationally. Recent solo exhibitions include *You Are Someone I can Tell My Secrets To* at LOCKER (2020, Los Angeles) and *Miracle Grow* at Michael Benevento (2017, Los Angeles). Benson regularly engages in collaborative curatorial/organizational projects. Recent examples include his part in co-founding the collective Assembly®, and his initiation of the artist-on-artist writing journal *The Benefit of Friends Collected*, of which Volume 2 was published by Project X (X-TRA Magazine) and co-edited with Shana Lutker.

**Becky Koblick** is an independent curator and director of Altman Siegel, San Francisco. In 2019 Koblick relocated to the Bay Area from Los Angeles, where she held director positions with Art Los Angeles Contemporary (2017–2019) and Michael Benevento (2012–2017). She is a founding member of the collective Assembly® and co-founder of Los Angeles project space sixteen:one (2002–2004). Koblick received her MFA from Goldsmiths Curatorial Department in London in 2011 and worked in gallery director positions in London and Brussels (2009–2011).