GIBNEY

SEP 25 - OCT 10

GIBNEY 280 BROADWAY

MY BODY IS THE HOUSE THAT WE LIVE IN
CURATED BY EZRA BENUS

Jaklin Romine: *Why bring me flowers when I'm dead? When you had time to do it when I was alive.*
Image description: A white room with sheer fabric draped from the ceiling above a door, on it is a print of a colorful floral arrangement made by the artist for her abuela (grandmother).

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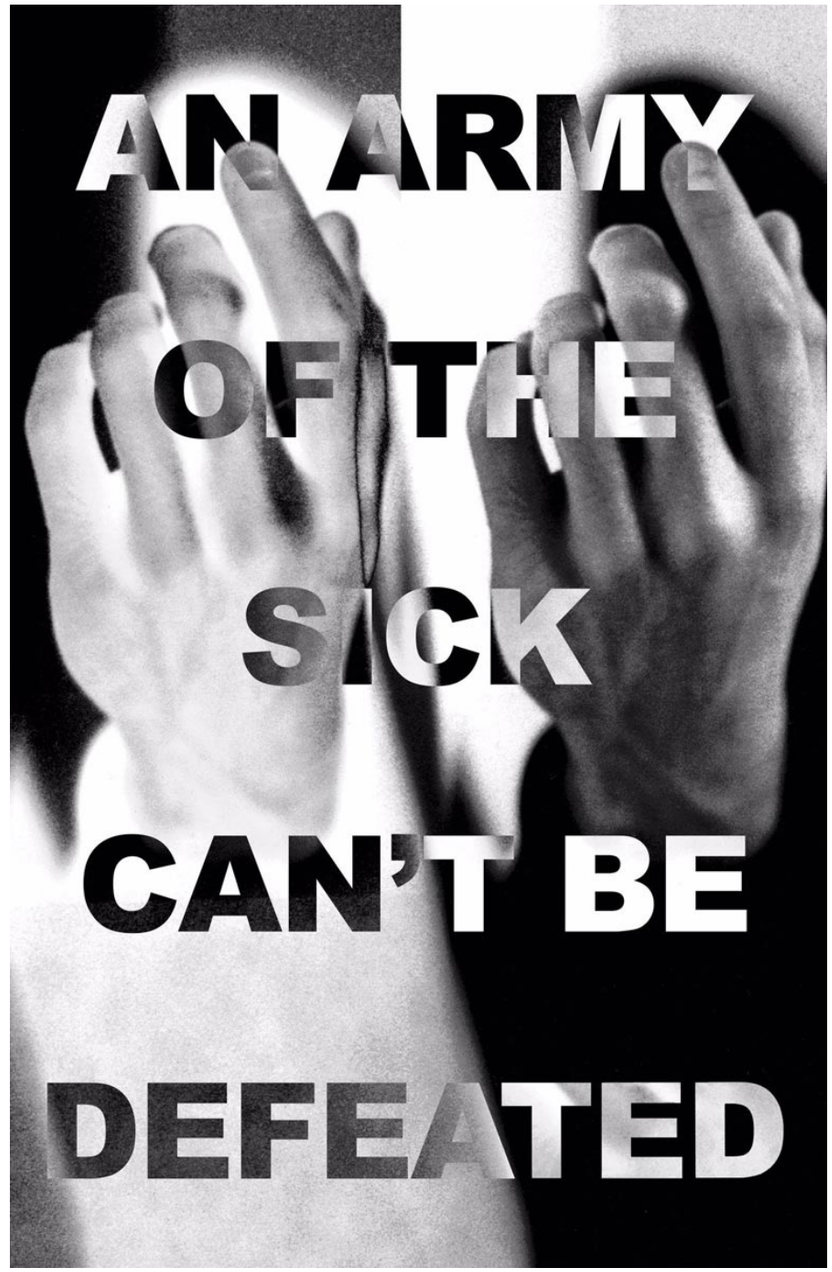
This exhibition offers ways of considering embodied experiences of disability and illness in artists' terms beyond just accessibility. It recognizes the wholeness of disability in its intersections and complexities, and leans into the tenderness of interdependency that those in disability communities deeply understand as it relates to building, having, losing, and changing relationships.

The exhibition reconsiders ways that disabled bodies exist in terms of portrayals of relationships with the self and others. It opposes limited and reductive portrayals that disabled people are thought of as being reliant on and taking from others. It is a rumination on the interconnectedness and intimacy between one's own body and its relationship to others.

The title is a reference to work by artist Romily Alice Walden. She measures the monotony and vulnerability in experiences living with illness and disability by engaging with other disabled people's experiences and builds collective discourse and care networks through art. That gestures to the ways artists here state that not only does their existence open up glorious space for themselves, but by doing so expands and nurtures space for others. Tapping into the visceral and bodily knowledge of disability, we can relate, create, support and be supported, be aroused, be angry and confused, long for, and love. To recognize each other's wholeness is to recognize that our relationships are complex and deeply part of that whole.

The Gallery will be unavailable on October 4 from 4:00 - 10:00 pm.
The Learning & Leadership Studio will be unavailable on October 7.
Public access to the Learning & Leadership Studio is subject to availability.
Please contact Morgaine De Leonardis at morgaine@gibneydance.org to inquire.



Ezra Benus and Noah Benus. Image Description: The whole image is in variants of grey scale, reminiscent of x-ray or other scans. bisecting the frame there are two images of the same back of the hand posed with most of the fingers curled inwards, with the pointer finger fully raised. Overlaid on the image is text that reads An Army Of The Sick Can't Be Defeated.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Robert Andy Coombs grew up in the upper Peninsula of Michigan. Studied photography at Kendall College of Art and Design in Grand Rapids Michigan. Coombs suffered a spinal cord injury in April 2009 due to a gymnastics training accident. After a year of recovery, he moved back to Grand Rapids to finish his BFA and graduated in 2013. Coombs is now a current second year MFA candidate at the Yale school of Art and will graduate in 2020. CripFag is an ongoing series where I explore the intersections of disability, intimacy and sexuality through my sexual adventures as a disabled gay male in today's society.

Alex Dolores Salerno is a conceptual interdisciplinary artist based in Brooklyn, NY. Salerno received their M.F.A. in Fine Arts from Parsons School of Design and their B.S. in Studio Art from Skidmore College. In their practice they explore the labor of embodiment under capitalism through themes of care, interdependency, mutability and multiplicity. Salerno has exhibited at Westbeth Gallery (NYC), Franklin Street Works (CT), The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum (NY), IA&A at Hillyer (D.C.), among others. They are a participant in the 2019-2020 Art Beyond Sight (ABS) Art and Disability Residency Program.

Jaklin Romine was born in Burbank, CA in 1985. She now works and lives in Los Angeles after completing her BA in Studio Arts at the California State University of Los Angeles In the winter of 2013. Romine takes photographs, makes mixed media installation, and creates sculptures that explore ideas of the body and self.

Joselia Hughes (b.1988) is a writer and self taught allodisciplinary artist living with Sickle-cell SC disease. She works to untangle the language(s) of liminality; instruments abstractions on the conditions of Blackness; interrogates reclamation and refusal through play and joyfulness; and reappraises societal perceptions of ability, chronic illness and disability to imagine and concretize alternative passages of survival. For more information, please visit www.joselia.info. IG: @joselia.jpg Twitter: @joselia_pdf

Elektra KB is a Colombian artist living and working in Brooklyn, NY. She graduated with an MFA from Hunter College in 2016 and a BFA in Visual and Critical Studies in 2012 from The School of Visual Arts, NY. KB grew up in a rural hospital in Colombia with an army of nurses, doctors and cooks, as the result of a Cold War era Soviet-Colombian union. She is currently preoccupied with becoming a part-machine cyborg to actualize her body. She wants to engage corporeal sickness, disability, and chronic pain with utopian possibilities and alternative universes. Her work entangles political thought, communication, and actions, often with a documentarian/sci-fi hybrid style functioning within two parallel universes. Through various media including: textiles, video, installation, performance and screaming. She reveals and explores mechanisms of utopias and dystopias, juxtaposed with our world. KB also investigates issues of abuse of power, gender, migration and transculturality. She is concurrently showing in "Nobody Promised You Tomorrow: Art 50 Years After Stonewall" at the Brooklyn Museum, NY (2019).

Ezra Benus is an artist, educator, and access worker. He is one part of the Brothers Sick, a collaboration with his brother Noah Benus. Ezra has exhibited work at Flux Factory, NYU Gallatin Gallery, The 8th Floor, Dedalus Foundation, Fylkingen. His work and activism is recognized and mentioned in i-D Vice, The New York Times, and Sight Line Magazine. He has given talks and workshops on disability arts and accessibility at: Princeton University, York College Fine Art Gallery, CUE Art Foundation. Ezra was the Access and Adult Learning Fellow at the Brooklyn Museum, and consulted on access and disability arts for art organizations such as Red Bull Arts Detroit, Eyebeam and Hunter College Art Galleries.

Noah Benus is a New York City based photographer interested in exploring people and their relationships with each other, their environments, and with the camera. He is one part of the Brothers Sick, a collaboration with his brother Ezra Benus. As a disabled artist, he ventures to reveal often overlooked moments through modes of portraiture, photojournalism, and studio works. Noah's photographic works use alternative processes, and analog and digital formats to educate and advocate for access.

Robert Andy Coombs. Image Description: Three men lie embraced on a hotel room bed. Coombs, a quadriplegic, lies in the middle of the two men looking at the camera while the other two have their eyes closed. The light from the window illuminates their pale skin, while the lamps behind them cast an orange glow on the already orange painted wall. The image is painted on a metallic luster paper which gives a sparkling effect to the skin and saturated colors.

Alex Dolores Salerno: *Pillow Talk*. Image Description: Two pillow cases are hung vertically on a white wall. Both are white with red stains. The left has injection needles (capped) stuck through the bottom half of the fabric, which causes the fabric to tug around each needle. The right pillow has short strands of black yarn speckling the pillowcase, some strands are grouped together while some are individual strands. The inside of both pillows are partially stuffed.