



Media Alert:

**Making Space at the Armory highlights the NYC Trans Oral History Project
in latest public program, Corpus Delicti, October 14**

WHAT: Park Avenue Armory is proud to announce the penultimate program in its 2023 Making Space Public Programming Series, **Corpus Delicti**, which will take place on **Saturday, October 14th from 12pm to 6pm**. At a moment of maximum anxiety and backlash over the fundamental human rights to autonomy, expressivity, modification, and self-transformation of the body, this convening of artists, activists, and intellectuals imagines and enacts transgender art and music as a vehicle for dialogue across differences.

This afternoon happening includes a series of panel discussions exploring topics including an examination of trans life through the lens of time, intergenerational voices telling their stories, and exploring the creative projects that have been born out of trans life. Additional on-site activations include media and reading rooms, and a sound installation created by the **NYC Trans Oral History Project** co-curated by **Aviva Silverman** (they/them), which has collected over 200 interviews of trans New Yorkers and counting, organized in collaboration with the New York Public Library. This thought-provoking salon serves as a hub of activity celebrating transgender liberation through intergenerational kinship—sharing stories of survival, joy, and the legacies of counter-cultural movement building.

Participants include: celebrated transgender trailblazer **Kate Bornstein** (she/her); visual and performance artist **Cassils** (they/them); internationally celebrated author, activist, and public speaker and Co-Founder Trans Student Educational Resources **Eli Erlick** (she/her); **AJ Lewis** (he/him), Co-Founder of the NYC Trans Oral History Project; genderless dragon **Tiamat Legion Medusa** (it); trans Latina writer, artist, and organizer **Xiomara Sebastián Castro Niculescu** (she/her); traveling artist and activist **Early Shinada** (they/them); **Dao Tran** (she/her), editor and Interim Co-Executive Director of oral history nonprofit Voices of Witness, that work to advance human rights; and scholar and curator **Jeanne Vaccaro** (she/her), among others.

Presented in conjunction with *Mutant;Destrudo*, the Armory’s new commission by the multifaceted artist and creator Arca that continues her practice of addressing themes of psychosexuality, science fiction, and gender identity.

This event marks the culmination of the NYC Transgender Oral History Project’s residency at the Armory’s Idea Lab—a short-term residency program connected to the Public Programming series—from October 2 through 16. Curator of Public Programming Tavia Nyong’o writes: “We are excited to be partnering with the Trans Oral History Project to provide a residency at the Armory in the lead up to *Mutant;Destrudo*. Since 2009, TOHP has gathered trans stories and made them

accessible. Their residency at the Idea Lab will dovetail with our mission to support research-led creative practice that speaks to the urgent questions of our moment.”

WHERE: Park Avenue Armory
643 Park Avenue between East 66th and 67th Streets
New York, NY 10065

WHEN: Saturday, October 14, 2023 from 12:00pm to 6:00pm

TICKETS: \$45 (plus fees)
Tickets are available for purchase by phone through the Armory Box Office at (212) 933-5812, Monday through Friday from 10am to 6pm; and online at armoryonpark.org.

WHO: The **NYC Trans Oral History Project** is a community archive devoted to the collection, preservation and sharing of trans histories, organized in collaboration with the New York Public Library. Founded in 2014, the organization is powered by volunteers in deep conversation with community organizations.

Its archive documents transgender resistance and resilience in New York City. TOHP works to confront the erasure of trans lives and to record diverse histories of gender as intersecting with race and racism, poverty, dis/ability, aging, housing migration, sexism, and the AIDS crisis. The organization privileges the insights of vulnerable trans communities fighting the structural dismantling of public benefits, housing insecurity and homelessness, policing, and surveillance.

Recorded interviews with trans New Yorkers are accessible via major listening platforms. The NYC Trans Oral History Project welcomes new contributions from volunteer interviewers and narrators. Anyone who identifies as trans / gender non-conforming and as a sometime resident of New York City is invited to contribute an interview. All interviews are accessible to the public and part of the Creative Commons license for free and open use.

SPONSORS: Citi is the Armory’s 2023 Season Sponsor.

Support for Park Avenue Armory’s artistic season has been generously provided by the Thompson Family Foundation, Charina Endowment Fund, the Donald A. Pels Charitable Trust, The Shubert Foundation, the Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust, the Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, the Howard Gilman Foundation, the Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, the Marc Haas Foundation, the Prospect Hill Foundation, the Reed Foundation, Wescustogo Foundation, the Leon Levy Foundation, the May and Samuel Rudin Family Foundation, Gregory Annenberg Weingarten, GRoW @ Annenberg, The Emma and Georgina Bloomberg Foundation, the Richenthal Foundation, and the Isak and Rose Weinman Foundation. Additional support has been provided by the Armory’s Artistic Council. Public support is provided by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature.

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Media Contacts

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