

LMCC Announces Three Site-Specific Exhibitions for 2023 Season at The Arts Center at Governors Island

Centered on the theme “time,” the 2023 season will feature an exhibition by installation artist Daniel Shieh, a film and video exhibition curated by Allies in Arts, and a new installation by Rhonda Wepler and Trevor Mahovsky

New York, NY — Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC) is thrilled to present **three site-specific exhibitions** created specifically for the **2023 public season at The Arts Center at Governors Island**. Each of the three exhibitions offers a dynamic combination of concepts and media—from sound works, film, and interactive sculpture to textiles, poetry, and light—with a focus on interactive and accessible presentations.

Over the last five decades, LMCC has supported artists through different stages of their careers, and is **pleased to highlight works by LMCC alumni in each of the three 2023 exhibitions** at The Arts Center. **Thematically centered around the passage of time**, each featured artist will offer their perspective on related questions about states of change, personal memory, generational shifts, and other topics related to how we view time. **The exhibitions will be on view to the public from May 6 to October 1, 2023—Friday through Sunday.**

“This is my first season leading The Arts Center at Governors Island since joining LMCC as president in October 2022, and I am overjoyed to begin on such a visionary and timely note. Many artists this season have previously participated in various LMCC programs at earlier points in their careers. I find this a testament to the strength of LMCC’s dedication to supporting creative practice and our enduring artistic relationships,” said **Craig T. Peterson, LMCC’s President**.

“We are thrilled to present the work of so many outstanding artists this season, all of whom consider questions about ‘time’ but in very different ways. It’s an honor to work with so much talent. We are excited to welcome the public into these exhibitions to see what we can all learn together,” said **Jess Van Nostrand, LMCC’s Director of Exhibitions and Public Programs**

Where Time Runs Backwards

Daniel Shieh

The Upper Gallery at The Arts Center

Hosted at The Arts Center’s Upper Gallery, *Where Time Runs Backwards* is a multimedia exhibition featuring five new site-specific works by Taiwanese-born artist **Daniel Shieh**, who returns to The Arts Center as a ‘21-’22 alumni of LMCC’s Arts Center Residency program. Incorporating light, sound, and kinetic elements, Shieh’s large-scale, interactive structures sing, rotate, and orbit, inviting the visitor to enter and inhabit this bustling environment. Shieh blends his personal history with cultural icons such as the Voyager

Golden Record and the American anthem, opening up an inquiry into national identity and diasporic family relationships. Shieh's work **will be paired with the poetry of Chia-Lun Chang**—recipient of LMCC's 2022 Sarah Verdone Writing Award—and **textile works by Arleene Correa Valencia**. The three artists draw upon conversations with their parents about aspirations for their children and what it means to be American. The title "Where Time Runs Backwards" refers to the artists' means of self-determination—endlessly retracing the past decisions of their antecedents in order to make sense of their future.

"I'm excited to present five of my new works at The Arts Center at Governors Island. This new body of work draws upon conversations with my parents about their experience living in the United States. Through incorporating cultural symbols and my personal history into immersive audio and visual installations, I'm thinking about what belonging to a country entails," said **Daniel Shieh**.

ANTI•VENOM

Presented by LMCC and Allies in Arts; Curated by Sophia Wallace and Drew Denny
The Lower Gallery at The Arts Center

Supporting artists across disciplines, **The Arts Center's Lower Gallery will once again be devoted to film**, this time through a new partnership with [Allies in Arts](#), a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting artists who identify as women, BIPOC, and LGBTQ+. In partnership with LMCC, **Allies in Arts will curate an exhibition of films and videos celebrating the progress of artists fighting for the liberation of women, BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and other marginalized groups over the last half century.**

The exhibition will explore The Arts Center's 2023 theme, "the passage of time," not as a passive phenomenon, but as dependent upon activist and aesthetic actions—i.e. if people don't organize, laws and norms won't change. Time stands still until people actively fight against oppression and for liberation. *ANTI•VENOM* details how our future is forged by activists and artists, like the many creatives LMCC has supported over its 50 year history. Featuring alumni from LMCC's programs and emerging artists who are moving the conversation forward, the exhibition is **curated by artist Sophia Wallace in collaboration with Allies in Arts Director Drew Denny.**

As part of the exhibition's activities, the artist Amelia Winger-Bearskin will also present a **special program presented in conjunction with the River To River Festival in June.**

Confirmed artists include: **Le'Andra LeSeur, Corinne Spencer, Amelia Winger-Bearskin, Andrew Thomas Huang, Joaquin Trujillo, Anna Parisi and Jacolby Satterwhite.**

"We are proud to present *ANTI•VENOM*, an exhibition resulting from the extraordinary opportunity to collaborate between two organizations that champion artists. The video and animation-based program is intellectually potent and aesthetically rigorous. The

extraordinary artists in this show remind us to stay rooted in our humanity, especially in these times. LMCC's Arts Center at Governors Island is a gleaming pearl of NYC's public art programs. The short journey by boat to-and-from The Arts Center further allows what is experienced at the Island to soak in. We are honored to offer this art respite for the many communities that participate in its free programs," said **Sophia Wallace**.

There is nothing you can think that is not the moon

Rhonda Wepler and Trevor Mahovsky

The Cafe at The Arts Center

Rhonda Wepler, '21-'22 alumni of LMCC's Arts Center Residency, and **Trevor Mahovsky** will present a new site-specific installation, titled ***There is nothing you can think that is not the moon***, in The Arts Center's cafe. A mysterious black shed housing a cornucopia of glowing versions of antique and vintage objects, this work is a variation of [Twilight](#), the artists' ongoing public art project, previously staged as life-scale mock antique and thrift stores on the streets of Washington, Toronto, and Orebro, Sweden. Each object is a replica in the form of a handmade lantern, assembled from photographs of objects collected and intensively documented by the artists in each city *Twilight* has visited. For the Governors Island installation, these lanterns appear as an island of light inside the dark storehouse that archives them. They are lit in changing patterns, which organize the hodge-podge collection into categories such as type, era, and city of origin. Before the final month of the installation, the lanterns will be given away and replaced by lanterns made by the public through free workshops offered during the exhibition's run. **With the artists welcoming all ages and abilities into their practice, participants will resurrect lost objects from memory, transforming the shed into the Museum of Lost Things.**

"We are excited to bring this ongoing project about the intersection of personal and collective histories within material culture to New York, not only to restage it but to completely transform it with the help of community engagement and participation on Governors Island," said **Rhonda Wepler** and **Trevor Mahovsky**.

Beginning in July, The Arts Center at Governors Island will also present The Take Care Series, LMCC's annual series of public programs that offers audiences of all ages an opportunity to actively engage in performances, workshops, talks, and other interactive events that embrace ideas of caretaking. These free public programs aim to find artfulness in the everyday by exploring creative practices and community projects that emphasize care for ourselves, our communities, and our planet. The 2023 season will feature artist-led workshops and moderated conversations that are free and open to all. **More information about The Take Care Series** will be announced within the coming months.

THE ARTS CENTER AT GOVERNORS ISLAND

Presented by the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC), The Arts Center at Governors Island offers free art exhibitions and interactive arts programs between May and October. Located minutes away from Brooklyn and Lower Manhattan, The Arts Center is the first permanent site on Governors Island for creative exploration and exchange between artists and the public.

Throughout the year, The Arts Center at Governors Island is also home to one of LMCC's core Artist Residency programs, providing space for artists from diverse backgrounds and disciplines to develop their work in conversation with a broad audience. Programming and work presented at The Arts Center explore timely questions about identity, the environment, and our relationship to Governors Island and New York City at large.

ABOUT LMCC

Founded in 1973 by Flory Barnett with support from David Rockefeller, Sr. and Chase Manhattan Bank, New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA), and other local business and civic leaders, **Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC)** was built on the premise that artists were pillars of resilience and inspiration and therefore vital to New York City. For almost five decades, LMCC has advanced their vision to serve, connect, and make space for artists and communities in NYC through programs that deepen artists' creative practices and afford them opportunities to share their process and work with local communities.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Daniel Shieh is a Taiwanese-born artist who investigates what is considered foreign to the United States. Through audio and sculptural installations, he examines key themes in American culture such as the frontier, nativism, and space exploration. His immersive installations often take the form of architectural structures that manipulate spatial perception and alter the power dynamics between visitors. Shieh has exhibited at Socrates Sculpture Park, SPRING/BREAK, Franconia Sculpture Park, Josephine Sculpture Park, and I-Park Foundation. He has been awarded residencies and fellowships at LMCC's Arts Center at Governors Island, Bronx Museum of the Arts, MASS MoCA, Anderson Ranch, Fountainhead, Millay Arts, ACRE, and Wassaic Project. He received an MDes from Harvard University and is based in Brooklyn, New York.

Allies in Arts is a trans and queer led 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to supporting artists of all mediums who identify as women, BIPOC, and LGBTQIA2S+ through exhibitions, screenings, grants, and fairly paid commissions.

Rhonda Wepler and Trevor Mahovsky, based in New York and Toronto respectively, have worked collaboratively since 2004. Their work has increasingly incorporated communal aspects of craft, such as DIY tutorial videos and virtual crafting bees. Their recent video project *Crafts Abyss* was hosted by the Museum of Arts & Design, NYC. Their work is in collections including the National Gallery of Canada (Ottawa), the Vancouver Art Gallery, and the Musee d'art Contemporain de Montreal. Wepler has been awarded residencies at LMCC's Arts Center at Governors Island (2021) and the School of Visual Arts NYC (MFA program, 2017). In 2018 she

completed a major project for the Community Arts program at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. They have received a Glenfiddich Residency Prize (2014), and an LL Odette Sculpture Residency at York University (Toronto, 2022). Their exhibitions in 2022-23 included OpenArt (Orebro, Sweden), and Susan Hobbs Gallery (Toronto).