

t r a n s f o r m e r

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AUGUST AT SIREN ARTS

[SUMMER OF RADICAL LOVE](#)
June 24 - September 23, 2017

529 Bangs Ave
Asbury Park, NJ

Transformer's SIREN ARTS summer residency & exhibition program in Asbury Park, NJ features artwork and programs exploring themes of cultural, racial, sexual, and gender equality by CA, DC, NJ, NY based artists: J. Morrison, Caroline Wells Chandler, Ramekon O'Arwisters, Lisa Marie Thalhammer, NoMüNoMü, Wilson Butterworth, James Cole, Kaliq Crosby, Rex Delafkaran, Adrienne Gaither, Rose Jaffe, Plakookee, Kunj, Pussy Noir, the moon baby, and Ickarus.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5
HOMOCATS CAT ADOPTION
WITH CATSBURY PARK

Saturday, August 5
1:30 - 3:30pm

Transformer's SIREN ARTS program, in collaboration with [Catsbury Park](#), host a special cat adoption event to support and promote feline rescue and adoption.

[ABOUT CATSBURY PARK](#)

We are a New Jersey 501(c) non-profit corporation with the goal of helping as many kittens and cats find loving homes through various channels. As many of you who followed us on social media might know, we started fostering out of our home in the summer of 2016 and were able to place 37 kittens with forever homes within our first 2 months.

Throughout 2017 we have hosted several pop events, where we've had the pleasure of assisting MCSPCA with several more adoptions.

We also want to create a space where the public can learn about cats, interact with them, and potentially take them home. We still hope to continue fostering kittens but Catsbury Park Tea House & Cat Lounge itself will focus on adult cats that, while available for adoption, are residents of the cafe and interact with customers. We also feel that Asbury Park, our favorite place, needs a tea lounge and have focused on providing high-end tea service to provide the best experience for those who come to spend time with our cats!

[ABOUT HOMOCATS](#)

Created by Brooklyn artist J. Morrison in 2010, *HOMOCATS* is a visual art project appropriating the modern popularity of the feline. We aim to fight phobias, propose equal rights, combat cultural stereotypes, and challenge social norms.

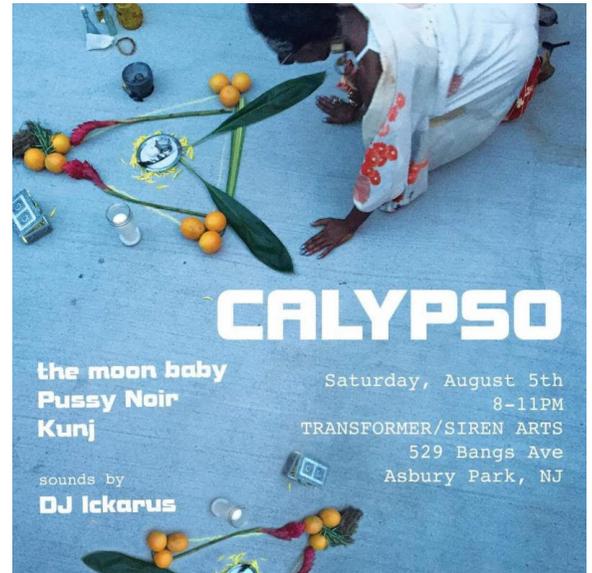


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CALYPSO WITH THE MOON BABY, PUSSY NOIR, & KUNJ SOUNDS BY ICKARUS

Saturday, August 5
8 - 11pm

Join DC-based performance artists, **Pussy Noir**, and **Kunj**, with Brooklyn-based creative **Ickarus**, and Pittsburgh based- **the moon baby**, for **CALYPSO** - a subversive, genderf*ck, radical drag performance, art experience during Asbury Park's Ascension weekend. Named for the nymph who kept Odysseus on her island for seven years, the artists play with the etymology of calypso, which translates into 'concealing the knowledge'; going deeper than the surface.



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

ICKARUS. A multidisciplinary New York-based creative with a heavy focus on identity and its intersections. In addition to their own work, Ickarus contributes to the production and social media facets of collective artist publication Creeps Annual and conceptual fashion brand LACTIC Incorporated. They also DJ at a variety of establishments throughout Brooklyn, NY. Their preferred pronouns are they / them / theirs.

JASON BARNES. Born and raised in the D.C. area, Jason Barnes mixed his background in music, theater, art, and fashion in New York and Paris to develop his **Pussy Noir** character, an androgynous entity that first became popular in nightclubs and later was featured in art galleries around the city. Barnes continues to culture his act, in which the audience is invited to have a full sensory experience.

KUNJ. Questioning and rebelling against institutional ideas of race, gender and queerness, Kunj uses ritual performance and structure to explore the notion of no-identity versus new-identity. He received his bachelor's degree in anthropology and studio art from the University of Maryland, and has performed at Grace Exhibition Space in New York, EMP Collective in Maryland and the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery.

THE MOON BABY. The moon baby is a singer and songwriter from Pittsburgh focused on queer excellence and mythology. Her new album, *Barbara*, explores soft power and queer rage and is the focus of her performance for the *Calypso* party.

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LISA MARIE THALHAMMER RESIDENCY
Thursday - Saturday, August 10 - 12
12 - 7pm & By Appointment

LOVE ARTIST TALK + WORKSHOP
Saturday, August 12
4 - 6pm

DC-based artist, [Lisa Marie Thalhammer](#), will be in-residence at the SIREN ARTS space from Thursday, August 10 through Saturday, August 12. The public is invited to stop by during exhibition hours to meet the artist and learn about her studio practice.

Visual artist-in-residence, Lisa Marie Thalhammer, will share her LOVE color network artworks following a light chakra alignment yoga meditation practice. With a focus on boosting your creative potential, we'll use visualization and color to recharge and gain a greater understanding of our energetic bodies and creative potentials.

LISA MARIE THALHAMMER creates socio-political feminist paintings, collages and public murals using portraiture, color and shape. Her mission is to challenge traditional gender stereotypes by creating images that empower women, LGBTQ peoples and communities. With a goal to uplift her subjects through visual representation her works also raise the consciousness of the viewer by challenging stereotypes and communicating uplifting messages. Thru use of color and symbolism, Lisa Marie Thalhammer's artworks also explore the interconnectivity between all things.

Lisa Marie Thalhammer returns to New Jersey this summer after participating in Transformers' 2014 "Promised Land" Asbury Park boardwalk exhibition residency. She is currently a D.C. Commission on the Art and Humanities Fellow and Public Art Building Communities grant recipient. She exhibits her work and paint large scales murals in Washington, D.C., where she lives and works, in addition to places such as Vienna Austria, Detroit, Asbury Park, Indiana, L.A., Miami and New York. Artnet News featured her 2009 "Boxer Girl" public art mural controversy when the D.C. police reported that her work decreased crime by 55%. The Washington Blade, the oldest LGBTQ newspaper in the USA, has featured Thalhammer on their cover and nominated her Best Visual Artist. Her David Wojnarowicz protest sign appeared on the cover of the New York Times Arts section during the 2010 "Fire In My Belly" controversy and more recently she was pictured on the cover of the Dubios County Herald painting her Ferdinand the Bull mural in Indiana. The Washington Post has featured Thalhammer on their magazine cover and additionally on their home page coverage of the 2017 Presidential Inauguration, highlighting Thalhammer's "Strong Women LOVE" parachute created for the Women's March on Washington.

Image Credit: *Rainbow Energy*, Ink on paper, 12" x 12", 2016

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ABOUT SIREN ARTS



Expanding on programs in support of emerging visual artists and innovative contemporary art practices, this summer Transformer launched Siren Arts, an annual summer residency & exhibition program based in Asbury Park, NJ.

Pursuing different formats and themes each summer, the inaugural Siren Arts program features a diverse mix of more than twelve artists from DC, Brooklyn, and Philadelphia. Artists are invited to develop and create works that explore cultural, racial, sexual, and gender equality, via a series of short-term residency experiences throughout the summer in Asbury Park, NJ.

Operating out of a storefront exhibition space at 529 Bangs Avenue in Asbury Park's historic business district, three blocks from the iconic Asbury Park Boardwalk and Atlantic Ocean, the first Siren Arts exhibition - Summer of Radical Love - presents contemporary artworks in a variety of visual mediums. New artworks will be introduced throughout the summer through public programs and receptions.

More about the program and participating artists at, transformerdc.org.
Follow [@sirenartsap](https://twitter.com/sirenartsap) for event and programming updates.

SIREN ARTS EXHIBITION HOURS: Thursday – Saturday, 1-7pm, and by appointment.

t r a n s f o r m e r is a Washington, DC based 501 (c) 3 non-profit, artist-centered visual arts organization, providing a consistent, supportive, and professional platform for emerging artists to explore and present experimental artistic concepts, build audiences for their work, and advance their careers. A catalyst and advocate for contemporary artists and emergent expression in the visual arts, Transformer connects and promotes emerging visual artists within regional, national and international contexts through a diverse range of innovative exhibition and program partnerships.

t r a n s f o r m e r ' s 2017/18 Exhibition Series and programs are supported by: The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Metabolic Studios, The CrossCurrents Foundation, The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities/NEA, Philip L. Graham Fund, The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, The National Endowment for the Arts' Access to Artistic Excellence Award, SunTrust, and The Visionary Friends of Transformer.