

# SIREN ARTS AGAIN COMES TO ASBURY PARK BEACH

ACCLAIMED WASHINGTON, DC BASED  
ARTS ORGANIZATION BRINGS TOP  
EMERGING ARTISTS TO CITY

**Alexander D'Agostino** Photo by Mariah Miranda

ASBURY PARK — A common theme these days at the triCityNews is the evolution of arts and culture in Asbury Park, and the triCity region of eastern Monmouth.

Nothing lasts forever. From our first issue over 23 years ago, this newspaper helped propel the DIY days of the arts in Asbury Park. But we knew that inevitably it would all have to evolve.

Last week, for example, we wrote about two of the key people — Jenn Hampton and Tina Kerekes — who transformed the old Asbury Lanes into one of the most remarkable music venues in the whole nation back in 2004. The old Lanes are gone, but today these two are powerful arts leaders in Asbury Park. Hampton is co-owner of Parlor Gallery on Cookman Avenue in downtown Asbury and Kerekes is Director of the Danny Clinch Transparent Gallery. Both are active and impactful in all different ways, from Hampton promoting public mural art to Kerekes promoting emerging musicians and fashion designers. The old DIY Asbury Lanes may be gone, but the powerful currents of what it started continues to this day, just in different forms.

Our point is making sure our beloved little city of Asbury Park — and the triCity region of eastern Monmouth — attracts and retains the creative, alternative and progressive in all different forms. And this newspaper will continue to highlight such things in these pages, just as we've done for over 23 years, to make sure it continues in its own evolving fashion.

And that brings us to Siren Arts, the 6th Annual Summer Artist Residency and Performance Art Series in Asbury Park. It's brought here by the Washington, DC-based Transformer, a well-known and respected artist-centered visual arts organization that's been promoting emerging artists for twenty years. Exposing so many emerging artists to Asbury Park (all are East Coast based) will create connections for them here in Asbury Park and our region. That can only bolster our work to promote the creative in our midst. At a minimum, these visiting artists will spread the word of support for the arts in Asbury Park and our region.

Created and curated by Victoria Reis, Transformer's Executive and Artistic Di-

rector, Siren Arts is an expansion of Transformer's mission: To connect and promote emerging visual artists, to advance them in their artistic careers, and to build and engage audiences with new and best contemporary arts practices. For more information visit [transformerdc.org](http://transformerdc.org). Both waterfront redevelopers — Madison Marquette and iStar — have been key supporters of the Siren Arts program.

Thursday night performances by the visiting artists start at approximately 7 pm on the 2nd Avenue beach in Asbury Park. Six weeks of these Thursday night events start on July 14. Performances will last approximately 30-40 minutes and are open to all audiences free of charge. Audiences are encouraged to gather on the 2nd Avenue beach at 6:45 pm, bringing beach towels or chairs for seating. In case of rain, performances will take place in the Casino Breezeway of the Asbury Park Boardwalk. For details: @sirenartsap on Instagram. In addition, there will be Artist Talks with the artists on the Wednesday nights before each performance at Transparent Clinch Gallery start at 6 pm.

Siren Arts this year features nine East Coast based artists pursuing innovative performance art works that celebrate the ocean through exploration of the theme of "Salt" as material, commodity, idea, sensation, identity and emotion.

"This year's program represents black, queer, indigenous and women's artist voices, and that's important now more than ever," said Reis. "These are celebratory performances, but the beauty of this program is that these artists are also smart and very thoughtful. They can speak to issues and concerns that all of us are feeling. At the same time, it's the beach. It's fun. It's summer."

Here's the line-up of the Thursday night 7 pm performance on the beach. Remember, the artist talks are the Wednesday before at 6 pm at Transparent Gallery in the Asbury Hotel.

**THURSDAY, JULY 14**

*Alina Tenser & Gabo Camnitzer, The Rock In The Sweat*

With The Rock In The Sweat, Alina Tenser and Gabo Camnitzer explore the

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discursive and affective registers of salt, tracing its history as a material, a commodity, and an idea. Salt has the ability to preserve and to decay, to suspend animation and to propel bullets. It's a rock circulating our body. Using experimental prompts, and custom props that shift form and function, Tenser and Camnitzer will engage people in a consideration of what happens when something that was once understood as precious is suddenly revealed to be permeating everything.

**PERFORMANCE | THURSDAY, JULY 21**  
*Holly Bass, Tether*

"The salty waters of the Atlantic have always been a space of both dreaming and grief for me, a place of beauty and terror. Being Black American and choosing to remain in America also carries its own kind of twoness, to borrow from DuBois. Why do I feel so bound to a place where I have never felt fully safe or fully seen by a majority of my fellow compatriots? In Tether, I will explore the physical and psychological distances between land and salt water, between being bound to a place and being free to choose where to go, how to be. While in residence, I will explore early memories of going to the beach with my family and friends, and my attraction to and fear of the ocean. I will also continue my explorations of tobacco cloth, cyanotypes, and African-American mythologies about water and salt. This research, conducted alone and with local community, will culminate in a performance ritual that literally explores the idea of 'the tie that binds'."

**PERFORMANCE | THURSDAY, JULY 28**  
*Ikwe (Kelsey Van Ert)*

"As an individual of mixed heritage, my work is often connected to my African American and Ojibwe experience. I use music, songwriting, sound art, poetry, performance art as well as still and moving images to amplify the mixed African American and Native American. At times my work focuses on my Black identity, other times it focuses on my Indigenous story. In efforts to highlight my Afro Indigenous experience, my ever-evolving artistic process incorporates the creation of indigenous hand drums, storytelling, transcribing thoughts on paper, and melding Black and Indigenous music."

**PERFORMANCE | THURSDAY, AUGUST 4**  
*Arien Wilkerson with Nicholas Serrambana and Karim Rome*

"During this public performance we will embody specific movement vocabularies such as tracing, flying, darting, digging, trotting, gliding, hurling, slinking, connecting movement phrases, live sound experimentation and long choreographic structured improvisations to find shared roots of black, radical, poz, trans, non-binary, traditions and mindsets; which go beyond just voguing as a placeholder for queer radicalization; adding new categories of human experience stripped bare of historical frames embedded within our culture. For us salt is about the unraveling of frames or frame works that suggest we all relate to land and sea as it relates to blackness and cityscapes, as it relates to the shores of land we have come to wash up on. The interpersonal questions of how free does the skin feel removed from its constant political and personal dialogue and how shared mindsets aren't always in shared spaces."

**PERFORMANCE | THURSDAY, AUGUST 11**  
*Alexander D'Agostino/Glitterwitch, Calm before the Storm/Prospero's Final Spell*

The Calm before the storm/Prospero's Final Spell is a durational performance that meditates on the idea of having magical powers and how to give them back. The artist becomes Propsero, lamenting his banishment and the futility and corruption of magic when used to gain power over others. D'Agostino will be extracting salt from the ocean to mix into a pile lavender with his pointe shoes on top of an altar/gogo-dancer box. During the performance, people will be able to gather and throw lavender on the artist's altar. When the salt is ready, D'Agostino will summon a storm with his body until he has exhausted the thunder.

**PERFORMANCE | THURSDAY, AUGUST 18**  
*Carolina Mayorga, Ceremonial Business*

In this interactive performance, a PINK goddess will perform a salt ceremonial walk along the beach that will slowly transition into an unexpected trade that involves audience participation. The contrasting actions will juxtapose the historical and spiritual values of salt with its industrial and commercial values.



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