

**MAY 15, 2012
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

PICA SYMPOSIUM: BODIES, IDENTITIES, AND ALTERNATIVE ECONOMIES

When: June 21-24, 2012
See following schedule for exact times/locations

Where: PICA, 415 SW 10th Avenue (Suite 300)
Various locations around Portland, Oregon

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Press Photos: http://www.pica.org/himages/PRESS/2012/04_Symposium/

Press Kit: <http://www.picaresource.org>

Bodies, Identities, and Alternative Economies is a weekend of multi-disciplinary art and conversation that takes the work of Bay Area choreographer Keith Hennessy as a starting point and expands out in freewheeling, open discourse. It's an update on the ancient sense of symposium for a pluralist culture. It welcomes all comers. It shifts away from the individual and embraces the collective. It's driven by your involvement.

PICA

In late June, Hennessy and his company will spend a working residency in Portland developing his latest piece, *Turbulence (a dance about the economy)*, for its US premiere at this September's TBA Festival. *Turbulence* is a bodily response to the economic crisis, and this symposium is a shared response to his practice and thinking. Over the course of the salons, rehearsals, lectures, and performances, PICA will create a forum for artists and audiences alike to debate and discover and participate in the messy and thrilling moment of artistic creation. The weekend will foster an inclusive, all-on-the-table discussion of issues in contemporary art and society, from identity politics to alternative economies.

The Symposium is an experiment in political and artistic involvement. With events ranging from intimate discussion groups to staged dances, it is a chance to play with the scales of conversation and to open up the artist residency process to audiences in an entirely new way. Featuring a working open rehearsal and talkback session of *Turbulence*; a one-night-only performance of Hennessy's Bessie award-winning solo *Crotch*; Neal Gorenflo of online magazine Shareable.net; and artists A.L. Steiner and A.K. Burns, who will screen their sociosexual film *Community Action Center*.

About Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA)

Since 1995, PICA has championed the practice of contemporary artists from around the world, driving vital conversations about the art and issues of today. PICA presents visual and performing artists and embraces those individuals who exist at the borders of mediums and ideas. Through artist residencies and exhibitions, lectures and workshops, and the annual Time-Based Art Festival, PICA constructs a broad platform for contemporary art.

THURSDAY, JUNE 21

6:30pm **Happy Hour Reading Group: *Starting Points***
Location TBD
FREE

The first of three small discussion groups that will investigate the central ideas of the weekend through the lens of texts and essays by authors ranging from Naomi Klein to Judith “Jack” Halberstam. Readings will be available on pica.org and in the Resource Room.

8:00pm **Keith Hennessy, *Crotch***
Studio 2, 810 SE Belmont
\$15 PICA Members/\$20 General

Moving across a stage full of sculpture, Hennessy’s solo dance performance references the images and actions of the legendary artist Joseph Beuys, embodying his shamanic beliefs and channeling this mythic figure.

9:30pm **Post-Show Artist Reception**
Dig A Pony, 736 SW Grand
FREE

FRIDAY, JUNE 22

5:30pm **Happy Hour Reading Group: *Queer as Artistic and Political Practice***
Location TBD
FREE

The second reading group will focus on the potential for “queerness” and “failure” to be artistically and politically generative, producing new possibilities that both resist and reimagine societal norms.

7:00pm ***In Conversation: Keith Hennessy & A.L. Steiner***
PICA, 415 SW 10th Avenue (Suite 300)
FREE

Dinner and dialogue to follow; reservation required (rsvp@pica.org)

Hennessy and Steiner will frame the broader themes of the symposium in relation to queer practice, their politics, and their own bodies of art. Continue the discussion with the assembled community over a family-style meal.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23

11:00am ***Sharing Communities and Alternative Economies: Neal Gorenflo of Shareable.net***
PICA
FREE

Gorenflo and other alternative economic thought leaders talk about sharing as a new form of economic exchange and social change, identifying future possibilities for the Portland community.

11:00am ***The Oh So (Queer) History of Portland***
Dill Pickle Club (Check dillpickleclub.org for details)
\$10 General

The DPC has partnered with PICA to develop a tour of downtown Portland's queer history. Explore both popular and unknown sites of interest that reflect Portland's diverse queer and LGBT culture over time, from the old gay bathhouses of the Glamour District, to iconic drag clubs, to significant sites in queer political history.

2:00pm **Open Rehearsal: *Turbulence (a dance about the economy)***
Studio 2, 810 SE Belmont
FREE

Hennessy and company present excerpts from their work-in-progress performance and engage the audience with its content and context in this unique public workshop that exposes the process of creation. Members of the company will share their views on the making of the work and guide conversation about the questions posed by the piece.

4:30pm **Happy Hour Reading Group: *Alternative Economies & Their Movements***
Location TBD
FREE

The final reading group explores the economic crisis and alternative political economies, as well as their manifestation in the current Occupy movement.

9:30pm **A.L. Steiner & A.K. Burns: *Community Action Center***
Hollywood Theatre, 4122 NE Sandy Blvd.
\$3 PICA and Hollywood Theatre Members/\$5 General

A 69-minute sociosexual video that seeks to expose and reformulate paradigms that are typical of porn typologies, intentionally exploiting tropes for their comic value, critical consideration, and historical homage. Inspired by 1970s porn-romance-liberation films, this unique womyn-centric film is both an ode and a hole-filler, a hedonistic and distinctly political adventure. *Followed by a live Q&A with the artists.*

SATURDAY, JUNE 24

11:00am ***Preaching to the Choir: Sunday Morning Songs by Local Musicians***
PICA
FREE

12:00pm ***Making Change: Panel Discussion with Portland Musicians***
PICA
FREE

Musician, artist, and music advocate Rebecca Gates will lead a panel on the local community, economy, and ecology of the Portland music scene, including insight into how local musicians are navigating their careers, the digital revolution, and a recession-era arts economy.

1:00pm **Decompression Brunch**
PICA
FREE

Join us over mimosas and bagels to reflect on the weekend and generate ways to push the conversations beyond the space of the symposium and out into the community.