

OPENING RECEPTION & Performance : **Saturday, February 4, 2017** from **6-8pm**

KODAMA

Spirit of The Tree



Kodama (spirit of the tree) is an exhibition examining the relationships between human beings and nature featuring work by Sophia Chizuco, Kurt Steger, Paulapart and featuring a performance with Zoë Galle (dancer). For Kodama, artists will create a landscape through a combination of sculpture, sound and a performance to question how humans engage with nature and how nature responds to our behavior. The curator's Japanese heritage led to an interest in Kodama, a compound of the Japanese words for tree (ko) and spirit (dama). By tradition, spirits inhabit old trees. If one attempts to cut it down, he would become cursed according to Japanese folklore. The phenomenon known as yamabiko, when sounds make a delayed echoing effect in mountains and valleys, is sometimes attributed to this kind of spirit, and may also be referred to as kodama.

Kurt Steger makes art that is of service, intended for healing our inner nature. He believes that it is our job on this earth to step into our brilliance and his job as an artist to facilitate that with objects and images. He is active in the Men's Movement and is interested in the shamanic role that the contemporary artist can embody in today's culture.

Paulapart is a Brooklyn-based acoustic sculptor and drawer. Movement is paramount in Paulapart's artistic practice, generating graceful other-world forms with basis in biology, acoustics, and material science. His work is definitively synesthetic and interdisciplinary, translating 2D drawings into 4D sound sculptures and audible sound into visible gesture.

Sophia Chizuco is a multidisciplinary artist based in Brooklyn, born in Japan. Influenced by nature, she create installations with organic material. All of her works somehow pertain to human life, society and nature. The eggshells in Precarious pertain to human life, in that they are fragile but also full of mystery, potential and everyday magic, provided they are taken care of.

Zoë Galle is a Brooklyn based Dance Artist and Visual Artist. She studied at the San Francisco Conservatory of Dance and earned her BA in Community Studies and BFA in Fine Art with an emphasis in printmaking from the University of California Santa Cruz. She has shown work as a professional choreographer and solo artist through Jennifer Muller's presenting series HATCH, at Velocity Dance Center in Seattle, as a recipient of the Incubator grant in an evening's length work at Motion Pacific, in max10 at Motion Pacific, in the 418 Project's Emerging Choreographers showcase, and as a solo artist at the Joe Goode Annex as a part of the 2015 Fresh Festival. She has performed in work by Alessio Silvestrie, Alex Ketley, Angela Mazziotta, Tristan Ching, and Summer Lee Rhatigan. She has worked as a professional choreographer with director Danny Scheie in UCSC's production of RENT and The Congressladies.

The exhibition will open on February 4th and on view through February 24th with an opening for the public on Saturday, February 4th, from 6 to 8pm. During Opening Reception, Zoë Galle and Sophia Chizuco will collaborate on an improvised performance within the space using Steger's shamanic weapons.