

Press Release

apexart - nyc

Dire Jank

organized by

Porpentine Charity Heartscape

March 21 - May 18, 2019

291 Church Street, NYC

Opening reception:

Wednesday, March 20, 6-8 pm

Featuring work by:

Devi McCallion

Tabitha Nikolai

thecatamites

Porpentine Charity Heartscape



thecatamites, *Magic Wand*, 2016

Dire Jank is the sublime worlds that blossom in the trash, and if they're a little radioactive, it's because of the materials we had to work with. Trash has memory, strata. It doesn't disappear when you flush it. It just changes into a gyre patch, or the rings of a tree, or another nation's problem, or a kid's epigenetic traits. On the internet people re-fashion it into something better or at least weirder, until eventually the normies want it back. Pocket worlds to shelter you from the neurotoxin rain, the worlds we deserved as children.

After a year of drawing games on index cards with markers during his lunch breaks, thecatamites accumulated the vignette collection *50 Short Games*. His fevered Final Fantasy pastiche *Magic Wand* is the homeopathic distillation of playing games as a child. These are the bezoars produced by an age where corporations manufacture monolithic media designed to eat your spare time, an eternal fandom of regurgitated sequels and reboots. Consuming these hardened digestive masses of culture will prove an antidote to any poison.

Devi McCallion's songs are awkward and hot, blood, drowning in blood, drowning in god, cannibalized by the world, sick with cop-radiation, full of the sweetness of plants dying. Like every artist in this show you see the seams in it, the connection to your own hands. *Prayers II Heaven* sounds like a magical girl burning up in the atmosphere, cursed to die beautifully.

Tabitha Nikolai makes mutant artifacts from cosplay, video games, and suburban occult--fragile teen rites to summon, after years of heartache, herself. *Ineffable Glossolalia* is an architectural fusion of Borges' infinite library with the Institut für Sexualwissenschaft, a key structure in pre-war Berlin's progressive landscape, influential in early trans studies until fire and concentration camps consumed its books and inhabitants.

In the past Porpentine Charity Heartscape was responsible for a game where you build occult devices for a skull empress and draw on your skin with sharpie, a game where you wander a cartoon world begging and starving played on fuzzy old CRT monitors, a game made of desktop folders, stories about insect women and dark rooms and being hunted. The future is sure to contain only more rampant necro-milfery and terrible genetics.

Porpentine Charity Heartscape is a writer, new media artist, game designer, and dead swamp milf in Oakland. She makes cursed artifacts and records the endless war. She is a 2016 Sundance Institute's New Frontier Story Lab fellow, a 2017 recipient of Rhizome's Prix Net Art Award, and a 2016 Tiptree fellow. Heartscape has exhibited at the 2017 Whitney Biennial, New York, the New Museum, New York, the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, and the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago. She is the author of *With Those We Love Alive*, *Howling Dogs*, *Psycho Nymph Exile*, and *Almanac of Girlswampwar Territory*, and has been commissioned by Vice and Rhizome.

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#DireJank

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