apexart Franchise:
Memphis Social
organized by Tom McGlynn,
Beautiful Fields collective

Opening Events
Friday, May 10
Grand Opening at the Hyde Gallery, Memphis College of Art, 5-8pm
South Main and Union Avenue art installations, noon-8pm

Saturday, May 11
Marshall Arts opening reception 5-7pm
U-Dig Dance Company Jookin’ dance off and reception at Caritas Village, 8-10pm

Sunday, May 12
Drumline and band presentation at Crosstown Arts, 4-6 pm

On view through May 18th at multiple sites in Memphis, Tennessee: The Hyde Gallery at the Memphis College of Art, The Cotton Museum, Marshall Arts, Crosstown Arts, and Caritas Village Community Center


Memphis Social is an exhibition and performance event that hopes to broaden the definitions of a socially engaged art happening. Memphis is a place that becomes universal in its specifics. The wider world knows the importance of Memphis as the birthplace of the Blues, yet, locally; the blues still live there. It’s being the location of Martin Luther King’s assassination is important to the wider public, but, locally, the struggle for racial and class equality still continues. Such specifics of time and tide that comprise a place like Memphis get freighted downriver and into common knowledge, until the city itself becomes a larger, more universal metaphor, like Woodstock or Gettysburg, Waterloo or Bethlehem.

Memphis Social is not ostensibly about Memphis, but the city as a determined social environment plays a big part in providing a rich ground for some of the social/aesthetic directions in the exhibition. Through specifically oriented performances and artwork Memphis Social will not attempt to recreate “the city” or re-enact “the social” but will deeply consider the idea that different interpretations of society still exist, in both specific and universal ways.

For more information please contact Cybele Maylone at cybele.maylone@apexart.org.

Tom McGlynn is an artist, writer, and independent curator based in the NYC area. His work is represented in many national and international collections including the permanent collections of the Whitney Museum, The Museum of Modern Art, and The Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum of the Smithsonian.

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