

# intermission museum of art

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## INTERMISSION MUSEUM OF ART OFFICIALLY OPENS WITH LAUNCH OF INAUGURAL EXHIBITION

June – August 2020

*preface – persona/e*

Rose Van Mierlo and John Ros

Intermission Museum of Art (IMA) was founded in 2020 by Rose Van Mierlo and John Ros, in response to the cultural, social, environmental, economic and political fissures that make themselves evermore present during times of crisis and put stress on accepted systems of operation. IMA provides a space for critical thinkers to respond to these moments of friction by investigating them as meaningful sites of production, instigating dialogues which will culminate in a public archive. Responses will be organized around themes. They exist on their own (as editions) and co-exist in larger ideas (as volumes). A physical manifestation will take shape at the end of each completed volume which will present other forms of collaboration with spaces creating co-agency within hospitable forms of engagement.

IMA's mission is to create a space for collaboration by providing points of access and a framework for critical discourse.

Inspired by modern, postmodern and contemporary examples of institutional critique, IMA carries forward Meschac Gaba's suggestion that the museum is "not a model... it's only a question." Its name references this question as open space: the flipping movement of a hand searching through archives, gaps in the pavement, performance interludes, TV-commercials, coffee breaks and silent pauses; all moments of unpoliced disruption that are typically un-institutional. At its core, IMA therefore proposes the museum as a site of uncertainty; a building without walls; a non-hierarchical collection of interdisciplinary narratives and voices; both a guest and a host; and an exercise in cross-pollination. It resists the architectural premise of power that underwrites the white cube, democratizing the exhibition in terms of access. Instead, its architectural premise is that of lateral networks; its vision decentralized and participatory.

Our inaugural edition *preface – persona/e*, featuring a collaboration between co-funding directors Rose Van Mierlo and John Ros, is an introduction as well as a question. What does it mean to be a person? Where is the limit between the intimately known, and the publicly strange? Which fictions underwrite our sense of being in the world, of being alive, of being perceived both by ourselves and others? In a time of virtual space, reality TV, and online personalities, how do we negotiate, expand, and play with the porous limits between self and other?

The exhibition can be viewed at

<https://intermissionmuseum.org/volume-i/preface-persona-e/>

#### **FOUNDER / COLLABORATOR BIOS**

**Rose Van Mierlo** is an independent international critic, curator, and lecturer. She was a critical writing fellow at Lokaal 01 (Belgium, 2011), a post-academic fellow at DNA/Gemak (the Netherlands, 2011), and a research assistant to the senior curator collections and research at the Dutch Photography Museum (the Netherlands, 2011). After completing a masters in Contemporary Art Theory (Goldsmiths University of London, 2015), she curated for Swiss Cottage Gallery (London, 2017) and the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art, amongst others. She is currently a part-time lecturer in Art Theory and Criticism at Metropolitan State University (Denver, US) and a director of the SquareWorks:Lab Fellowship (Mumbai, India).

Rose's current scholarly research and curatorial practice are invested in modern and contemporary visual culture and art history, with a particular focus on methodologies of fiction in relation to gender, politics and public space. This interest expands into the fields of film and media theory, critical theory, institutional critique, race and post-colonialism, and the feminist avant-garde.

**John Ros** is a Brooklyn-based, multi-disciplinary artist, professor and curator. They obtained an MFA from Brooklyn College, CUNY, and a BFA from the State University of New York at Binghamton. John is currently the director and a professor at studioELL, an alternative, transient and hybrid space for higher education in studio art, which they founded in 2015. They are a curator at In-Visible Ink of the Museum of Freedom and Tolerance (Perth, AU) and a curator-in-residence at Stand4 Gallery & Community Art Center (Brooklyn, NY).

John has over 15 years experience in higher education and 22 years experience curating exhibitions and developing community programming. Over the past 22 years, John has worked on more than 75 exhibitions with over 250 artists. In 2008 they founded galleryELL, a transient hybrid gallery in Brooklyn, NY. They served as director and chief curator for eight years until its close in 2016. John also co-founded, co-directed and co-curated Pocket, a brick-and-mortar gallery in Binghamton, NY (2002-2005). Along with writing many exhibition essays, John has also contributed critical writing to galleryELL, Sluice\_ magazine and Hyperallergic.

## CONTACT

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Images available on request.