

OXYGENENERGIZER. US AS ONE.

GENDERLESS AIR

DIPPING INTO THE CLEFT OF CLOSED LIPS
YOU FINE NOTHINGNESS
BREATHING DEEP
TO SURRENDER THE AMORPHOUS LUXURY

THE LATEST IN TECHNOLOGY

FROM THE ROOT CHAKRA UP TO THE
THROAT CHAKRA UNTIL THE CROWN CHAKRA

THE AMORPHOUS SUBLIMES

CAN YOU FEEL ME INSIDE

OXYGENENERGIZER. AMORPHOUS NYSTARIA
 OXYGENENERGIZER.COM
 BREATHING SOUL

DROP TO ME
DEEP TO ME
I FINALLY FOUND A BATTERY
BREATHE YOU IN.

OXYGENENERGIZER.

THE NIGHTS OF THE BROKEN STARTER PASSED

AIR MACHINE
BREATHING IN
AIR FOR FREE

THE HYPER ENERGY SOCIAL SOUL
OE: THE SOUL EXISTS IN THE OXYGEN OF PARTICULAR MATTER! AN OXYGEN EXCHANGE OF VARYING UNITS OF MATTER ALSO RESULTS IN A SOUL EXCHANGE!
OE: SO, THE EXCHANGE OF SOUL POWER HAPPENS THROUGH THE PARTICIPATION OF BREATHING MATTER, HUMAN BREATHING;
SOUL POWER IS ABSORBED FROM THE AIR BY A BREATHING HUMAN BEING. SOUL POWER FROM THE AIR REACTS IN THE INSIDES
OF THE HUMAN LIKE A KEY-AND-LOCK-UNIT—IN WHICHEVER HUMANS ARE COMPATIBLE.
A SPECIFIC KEY-AND-LOCK COMPATIBILITY IS INBORN, LIKE A BLOOD TYPE.
THROUGH BREATHING EXERCISES, ONE CAN HEIGHTEN COMPATIBILITY WITH SEVERAL SOUL POWERS.

DISTANCE CREATES THE SPACE IN THE IN BETWEEN, ALL IS POSSIBLE, IT IS REALITY.

LOVE AMORPHOUS BECOMING PART OF THE OTHER

IT OPERATES GENTLY INTO THE SPECTRUM OF REALITY AND GETS SUCKED OUT AGAIN.

OXYGENENERGIZER. AMORPHOUS HEALING

YOU LOOK AT IT, BUT IT DOESN'T EXIST.

LIQUID EARTH.
RUNNING
A SOUP OF MULTIPLE CELLS.
WATERED TOGETHER.

WEIRD WEATHER

WE WILL SEE MORE THINGS
UNLESS WE FIND A SOLUTION

INFINITE IMPOSSIBILITIES

BELLY RISING

AMORPHOUS MULTIPLE US.

“IN THE 1990s, SCIENTISTS FOUND THE FIRST CLUES THAT CELLS FROM BOTH SONS AND DAUGHTERS CAN ESCAPE FROM THE UTERUS AND SPREAD THROUGH A MOTHER’S BODY. THEY CALLED THE PHENOMENON FETAL MICROCHIMERISM, AFTER THE CHIMERA, A MONSTER FROM GREEK MYTHOLOGY THAT WAS PART LION, GOAT AND DRAGON.” 1

“FAR FROM DRIFTING AT RANDOM, HUMAN AND ANIMAL STUDIES HAVE FOUND FOETAL ORIGIN CELLS IN THE MOTHER’S BLOODSTREAM, SKIN AND ALL MAJOR ORGANS, EVEN SHOWING UP AS PART OF THE BEATING HEART. THIS PASSAGE MEANS THAT WOMEN CARRY AT LEAST THREE UNIQUE CELL POPULATIONS IN THEIR BODIES – THEIR OWN, THEIR MOTHER’S, AND THEIR CHILD’S.” 2

OXYGENENERGIZER. CYANOBACTERIA.

“SO HOW DID EARTH END UP WITH AN ATMOSPHERE MADE UP OF ROUGHLY 21 PERCENT OF THE STUFF?
THE ANSWER IS TINY ORGANISMS KNOWN AS CYANOBACTERIA, OR BLUE-GREEN ALGAE. THESE MICROBES CONDUCT PHOTOSYNTHESIS: USING SUNSHINE, WATER AND CARBON DIOXIDE TO PRODUCE CARBOHYDRATES AND, YES, OXYGEN. IN FACT, ALL THE PLANTS ON EARTH INCORPORATE SYMBIOTIC CYANOBACTERIA (KNOWN AS CHLOROPLASTS) TO DO THEIR PHOTOSYNTHESIS FOR THEM DOWN TO THIS DAY. WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE IS THAT OXYGEN WAS FIRST PRODUCED SOMEWHERE AROUND 2.7 BILLION TO 2.8 BILLON YEARS AGO. IT TOOK UP RESIDENCE IN ATMOSPHERE AROUND 2.45 BILLION YEARS AGO,” SAYS GEOCHEMIST DICK HOLLAND, A VISITING SCHOLAR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA. “IT LOOKS AS IF THERE’S A SIGNIFICANT TIME INTERVAL BETWEEN THE APPEARANCE OF OXYGEN-PRODUCING ORGANISMS AND THE ACTUAL OXYGENATION OF THE ATMOSPHERE.”

WE DON'T UNDERSTAND THE MODERN OXYGEN CONTROL SYSTEM THAT WELL.” 3

PAINTING THE SUN BLUE, PAINTING THE SUN BLUE, PAINTING THE SUN BLUE, PAINTING THE SUN BLUE

NOVA

OXYGENENERGIZER. POLYAMORPHOUS HYPERSENSITIVE INDETERMINATE SPACE RELIEVER.

OXYGENENERGIZER. SCI-FI SOUL CREATURE BELIEVER

OXYGENENERGIZER. INFINITE HYPEROBJECT FOR MULTISPECIES

OXYGENENERGIZER. AMORPHOUS FEMINISM GENDERLESS

OXYGENENERGIZER. THE FIRST ENGINE FULLY RUNNING ON OXYGEN

OXYGENENERGIZER. BREATH AMORPH GENDERLESS

OXYGENENERGIZER. US AS ONE. CELLULAR TRANSFER PERVIOUS

LOVE AMORPHOUS BECOMING PART OF THE OTHER

“A PREGNANCY SOUVENIR: CELLS THAT ARE NOT YOUR OWN” THE NEW YORK TIMES
“WE ARE MULTITUDES” AEON
“THE ORIGIN OF OXYGEN IN EARTH’S ATMOSPHERE” SCIENTIFIC AMERICA

Sonja Gerdes

Pie of Trouble. Stays Trouble. Belly on Belly. Let’s Hang. Breathe you infinite. Oxygenenergizer. Animal Creature Plant Breath Soul. The Energy Plan. Amorphous Hypersensibility. Do Ants Breathe? Nova. The Multiple Amorphous Us. Air For Free.

August 11- September 28, 2019

Sonja Gerdes’s practice investigates the relationship and interactions between the body, energy, and air and what it means to be human. Her starting point is a conceptual science fiction project called Oxygenenergizer (OE), which explores a future in which machines create energy from oxygen and “breathing” is recognized as the connecting force between all life and spirits on the planet. It speaks poetically about the contemporary human condition as an ongoing, infinite, fluid, adaptive movement despite the stark reality of climate change. Taking the form of a custom site-specific installation including textiles, sculpture, sound, and prints, the Gas truck gallery will be reconceived as a hub for the Oxygenenergizer. Visitors are invited to listen and mindfully breathe together within its structure, encouraging a sense of collectivity. This dimension is furthered by performances and interactive workshops that create meaningful dialogue around air and energy’s boundless potential. The exhibition creates a gathering place centered on the breath as a vital aspect of the human experience, while giving concrete shape to urgent conversations regarding the environment.

A limited edition reusable blue glass straw engraved with the words “oxygenenergizer.com Air for free” is available during the run of the exhibition for \$20, both on-site and online at gas.gallery/editions.

Sonja Gerdes was born in Germany. She studied at the University of the Arts in Berlin, and from 2007-2013, co-ran the Berlin-based artist run space, Infernoesque. She lives and works in Los Angeles and Berlin. Recent exhibitions include Pie of Trouble, Stays Trouble, Let’s Hang, Breathe, Oxygenenergizer, Becoming With, Genderless Breath, Animal Creature Plant Breath Soul, Air For Free. Do spiders breathe? The Multiple Amorphous Us, Crown Chakra - Sahasrara Rising, Nova, Cloaca Projects, San Francisco, Direct Contact, D21, Leipzig: School for Endurance Work, Cal State La, Los Angeles; Pie of Trouble, Let’s Hang, Air for Free, Uncertainty, Absurdity, You look at it but it doesn’t exist, Anahata, Vishuda rising, Unpredictability, Cirrus Gallery, Los Angeles; When the sea looks back, A Serpent’s Tale, The Many Headed Hydra #02, District, Berlin; Pie of Trouble, Let’s Hang, You look at it but it doesn’t exist, Air for free and The Elegant Universe, The Pitt, Los Angeles, CA; Unblinking Eye, Kavi Gupta Gallery, Berlin, Germany; and Informell natur, Sabine Knust, Berlin, Germany. <http://www.sonjagerdes.com/>

Locations/Hours/Events (Fall 2019)

In August and September, we’re pleased to partner with the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG) for a series of pop-ups and events in conjunction with Offal, a group exhibition conceived from the subject of offal (‘ôfal, ôfal) or the culture of consuming innards. Gas will park at LAMAG every Saturday from 4-7pm through the run of show, unless a pop-up is scheduled elsewhere. We would like to give special thanks to LAMAG for hosting us.

Saturday, August 11, 2019, 2-5pm (Opening)
Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG) in conjunction with the opening party for *Offal*
4800 Hollywood Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90027

Saturdays, August 15-September 28, 2019, 4-7pm (Open Hours)
Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG)
4800 Hollywood Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90027

Sunday, August 18, 2019, 3-8pm (Pop-up)
Pop-up at ARVIA in conjunction with the opening for Aubrey Ingmar Manson’s “*Faster, Hammers... We’re Almost There!*”
(For address please DM : https://www.instagram.com/arvia_la/ or email hello@arvia.com)

Saturday August 24, 6pm (Workshop)
“Oxygen as a Love Spell: Plant Telepathy and Ecstasy” with Eliza Swann

Location:
Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG)
4800 Hollywood Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90027

In this one hour guided meditation, we’ll learn to connect heart to heart and breath to breath with a plant, inviting a spike in oxytocin and blessings from the green magic of love that exists between our lungs and the plants.

Eliza Swann is an interdisciplinary artist, intuitive, writer, educator, and community organizer based in Los Angeles and New York.

Monday August 26, 2019 (Performance and Screening)

FLAX’s Drive In Theater

Location:

Tin Flats

1989 Blake Ave

Los Angeles, CA 90039

Free with RSVP, limited capacity

8pm Performance by Sonja Gerdes and 8:30pm Safe by Todd Haynes (119 min, Rated R)

Can cars breathe? As her alter ego Pie of Trouble, Sonja Gerdes will engage in a communal meditation with the vehicles parked for the drive-in.

More on Safe (1995) by Todd Haynes:

Julianne Moore gives a breakthrough performance as Carol White, a Los Angeles housewife in the late 1980s who comes down with a debilitating illness. After the doctors she sees can give her no clear diagnosis, she comes to believe that she has frighteningly extreme environmental allergies. A profoundly unsettling work from the great American director Todd Haynes, *Safe* functions on multiple levels: as a prescient commentary on self-help culture, as a metaphor for the AIDS crisis, as a drama about class and social estrangement, and as a horror film about what you cannot see. This revelatory drama was named the best film of the 1990s in a Village Voice poll of more than fifty critics.

Saturday September 7th, 4pm (Workshop)

Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG)

4800 Hollywood Blvd

Los Angeles, CA 90027

Taking her exhibition as a point of departure, specifically her ongoing conceptual science fiction project called Oxygenenergizer (OE), artist Sonja Gerdes will lead an interactive workshop about “Air in Art and Air as Air” that invites reflection on the human body, breathing and the evolving presence of pollution. The workshop will collaborate with Barnsdall Arts and an environmental organization on strategies on how to get more active in the movement to improve air quality in Los Angeles. The workshop starts with a breathing meditation session, which will then lead to a conversation concerning how we want to share space with and for each other in times of climate change. The session will end with banner making that we will use in a demonstration for a clean, renewable energy future in LA.

Thursday, September 12, 2019, 8pm (Pop-up)

CalArts in conjunction with the Paul Brach Visiting Artist Lecture Series

24700 McBean Pkwy

Valencia, CA 91355

Saturday, September 21, 2019, 12-4pm (Pop-up)

Closing party for Jared Baxter’s *Todo en ti fue naufragio* and Marcia Moore’s *On the Brink*

Angels Gate Cultural Center

3601 S. Gaffey St.

San Pedro, CA 90731

Saturday September 28th, 5pm (Performance)

Exhibition closing event and performance by Sonja Gerdes

Location:

Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG)

4800 Hollywood Blvd

Los Angeles, CA 90027

As her alter ego “Pie of Trouble” Sonja Gerdes will perform a ritual that attempts to create spaces of collectivity through air and energy to tap into the interconnectedness between humans, plants and animals. We will see her perform in a new custom handmade costume. For her new site specific piece, Gerdes will give shape to an amorphous entity that operates as an interlocutor between the human condition, both present and future.

About Gas

Gas is a mobile, autonomous, experimental, networked platform for contemporary art. Located in a truck gallery parked around Los Angeles and online, Gas collaborates closely with artists to create experiences that foster community and connection while imagining alternative forms of cultural and critical production. The space’s inherently itinerant format reflects the fluidity of twenty-first-century culture and art practice, while also allowing considerable independence and creative freedom in terms of concept, site, format, audience, and engagement. Gas offers an opportunity to rethink why, where, and how we view art, whether the encounter happens while surfing the web or driving around Los Angeles, a city defined by its sprawl and car culture. Each season, Gas presents one thematic exhibition that includes works in the gallery and online. All shows include a fundraiser edition and a zine publication. <http://www.gas-gallery>