body double

Xavier Cha
Audition

Tyler Coburn + Ian Hatcher
Remote Viewer

beck haberstroh
We are already gathered

Organized by
Nicole Kaack

Miriam (Brooklyn)
June 1 + June 28

Dunes (Portland, ME)
June 3–4

Parent Company (Brooklyn)
August 3–5

Body Double
An event series featuring Xavier Cha, Tyler Coburn, beck haberstroh, and Ian Hatcher
Organized by Nicole Kaack
In partnership with Dunes (Portland, ME), Miriam (Brooklyn, NY), and Parent Company (Brooklyn, NY)
June–August 2023

Body Double is a series of events that explores presence, virtuality, and transference through works by artists Xavier Cha, Tyler Coburn, beck haberstroh, and Ian Hatcher. This project is organized by Nicole Kaack in partnership with Dunes (Portland, ME), Miriam (Brooklyn, NY), and Parent Company (Brooklyn, NY).

The series draws its title from the term for an actor that operates as a surrogate for another individual, one who is more prominently credited with playing the same part. The body double is selected for their superficial physical likeness to the acknowledged performer. However, for the purposes of the audience, this secondary actor does not exist. The body double navigates the set, the screen, the stage seen by us, yet not recognized. When we gaze at that back, torso, or arm, assuming that this anatomy is connected to a known face, who is it that we see?

The works presented in the series are adapted from projects previously presented in other years and contexts. Like the subjects they address—psychic projection, surveillance, dramaturgy, and deepfakes—the second lives of these works are troubled by questions of originality and immediacy. "Performance" can indicate theatrical drama, yet also suggests the achievement of a task, subsisting at once in the realms of the mimetic and the actual. Although the works in Body Double sidestep performance—turning instead to the workshop and audition—the projects are nonetheless in dialogue with, and, even, about this form, suggesting participatory expansions that nonetheless wear away the contours of reality.

Xavier Cha: *Audition*
Performance: June 1 and June 28 from 7–9PM EST
Exhibition: June 8–July 29; opening reception, June 8 from 6–8PM EST
Miriam, 319 Bedford Ave, Brooklyn, NY
Open to the public

An actor walks into the camera's frame, and they become someone else. For the duration of their performance, they inhabit a new persona that collides memory, empathic imaginaries, and socially constructed behavior. In *Audition*—in which the audience is invited to watch the trial that precedes selection for a role—Xavier Cha focuses our attention on the craft and material of acting, allowing us to see many interpretations of the same role in quick succession and emphasizing the changes of affect that signal that the actor is playing a part. This performance is an adaptation of a work originally performed at the de la Cruz Collection, Miami, in 2011.

Tyler Coburn and Ian Hatcher: *Remote Viewer*
Workshop: June 3–4 at 6:30PM EST
Dunes, 251 Congress St, Portland, ME
Registration required

Drawing on psychic espionage practices developed by the U.S. government during the Cold War, Tyler Coburn and Ian Hatcher lead a series of workshops that instruct participants in the technique of remote viewing. This workshop was originally commissioned by Theater Rampe and Künstlerhaus Stuttgart in 2017. In 2018, it was presented at Triangle Arts Association, New York.

beck haberstroh: *We are already gathered*
Workshop: August 3–4 at 6:30PM EST; August 5 at 2PM EST
Parent Company, 165 Willoughby Street, Container #5, Brooklyn, NY
Registration via email

Generative AI companies rely on datasets that contain billions of photographs collected from across the internet. These photographs are of people—perhaps of you, or I, or people we love—many of whom will never know that their likenesses are included in these datasets and being used to generate images, videos, or filters for selfies. Engaging the formats of masquerade, open-ended group brainstorm, and social contract, beck haberstroh's *We are already gathered* aims to transform this data back into lived relationships and explore what happens when we reclaim these alienated representations of ourselves.

<u>Xavier Cha: *Audition*, Casting Call</u>
Director: Xavier Cha
Project Title: *Audition*, 2011/2023

Location: Miriam, 319 Bedford Ave, Brooklyn, NY
Dates: June 1 and June 28 from 7–9PM EST
Format: Live performance, video

Audition: By appointment for applicants; audition process open to a public audience

Project Description: In *Audition*, Xavier Cha opens the audition process to a public audience, focusing our attention on the craft and material of acting, allowing us to see many interpretations of the same role in quick succession, and emphasizing the changes of affect that signal that the actor is playing a part.

Call: Xavier Cha and Miriam Gallery seek performers to audition for two roles, described below. Auditions will be no more than 15 minutes apiece and will be open to the public. During the audition, actors will perform a one-minute screen test, to be incorporated into a video installation that will be on view at Miriam from June 8–July 29, 2023.

Roles
1. The camera is shooting over your shoulder as you stare at your reflection in a mirror, moving through expressions of inquiry, doubt, and searching, ending with a look of dejection. You make an attempt to pull yourself together, mustering a sense of composure and donning a mask of confidence.
- *Auditions to take place on June 1, 2023 between 7–9PM; specific call time to be determined upon invitation to applicant*

2. Still shot in which you look up to meet the gaze of another person off screen. You read and understand their expression and silently respond with a look of hollow but reserved disappointment.
- *Auditions to take place on June 28, 2023 between 7–9PM; specific call time to be determined upon invitation to applicant*

Compensation: $50 per audition; auditions no more than 15 minutes in length

Applicants: Please submit your CV, headshot, and optional reel to hello@miriamgallery.com, with the subject line "Xavier Cha, Audition: [FULL NAME]"

<u>Artist Biography</u>
Xavier Cha's performance-based works and videos grapple with architectures of subjectivity, illusions of agency, and what it means to be human with a physical body within racial/techno capitalism. Attuned to ways in which the body is watched and conveyed, immersed within heightened circuits of surveillance, marketing, voyeurism, and self-spectatorship, Cha examines how mediating frames—screens, sets, algorithms, and the omnipotent lens of the camera—shape behaviors and comfort within the body. Recent solo exhibitions have been presented by Commonwealth and Council, Los Angeles (2019); Empty Gallery, Hong Kong (2018); 47 Canal, New York (2015, 2012); and The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2011). They have staged performances at venues, including the Brooklyn Academy of Music, New York (2017); Zacheta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw (2017); Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf (2014); and the New Museum, New York (2013). Cha has been awarded the Harkness/BAM Dance Residency (2017), Frieze Film Commission (2015), Guggenheim Fellowship (2014), and New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship (2012). They received a B.F.A. from the Rhode Island School of Design and an M.F.A. from UCLA. xaviercha.com

<u>Partner Organization</u>
Miriam is an artist-run gallery and bookshop in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Through deeply collaborative relationships with artists and curators, Miriam shares interdisciplinary practices through exhibitions, events and artist books. miriamgallery.com, @miriam.gallery

Tyler Coburn and Ian Hatcher: *Remote Viewer*
June 3–4 at 6:30PM EST
Dunes.fyi, 251 Congress St, Portland, ME
Registration required

Extrasensory perceptual techniques have persisted across the ages, mobilized by systems of belief spanning the Spiritualist seances of the 1800s and the automatic writing of the twentieth century artistic avant-garde. Even after the Second World War, long past the dawn of science, the telepathic potential of the human mind continued to be tested and harnessed—if for more agnostic pursuits. Psychics did not peer into the beyond but rather into enemy territories, transgressing the bounds of body and state in search of clandestine intelligence. Like the Surrealists before them, these telepathic spies cast their minds like nets, while their bodies—stationary yet receptive, dumb yet impressionable—eked out information in inscrutable sketches and impassive assemblages of clay.

Engaging this paranormal tradition, Tyler Coburn and Ian Hatcher will lead two workshops that instruct participants in the technique of remote viewing, a form of psychic espionage developed by the U.S. government during the Cold War. Over the course of each workshop, participants will be introduced to this psychic methodology and led through a viewing.

Remote Viewer was originally commissioned by Theater Rampe and Künstlerhaus Stuttgart in 2017. In 2018, it was presented at Triangle Arts Association, New York.

Artist Biographies
Tyler Coburn is an artist, writer, and teacher based in New York. He has presented work at Centre Pompidou, Paris; The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Bergen Kunsthall, Bergen; Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna; Hayward Gallery, London; Para Site, Hong Kong; and Art Sonje Center, Seoul. Coburn is the author of four books, including *I'm that angel* (2012); *Richard Roe* (2019), published by Sternberg Press; and *Solitary* (2022), also published by Sternberg. His texts have appeared in *e-flux journal*, *Frieze*, *ArtReview*, *DIS*, *Mousse*, *LEAP*, and *Rhizome*. tylercoburn.com

Ian Hatcher is a writer, sound poet, voice actor, coder, and performance artist whose work explores power, narrative, and cognition in the context of digital systems. He has presented performances and readings across North America and Europe, and his projects have taken a broad array of formats, including the print sound poetry collection, *Prosthesis*, vinyl records and chapbook, and *Abra*, an artists' book and mobile app created with Amaranth Borsuk and Kate Durbin. He has taught at Brown University, New York University, the NJ Institute of Technology, Rutgers-Camden, and the University of Bergen, where he spent the 2021–22 academic year as a Fulbright Scholar. He holds degrees in art and writing from SAIC and Brown University, and is currently an IAWP Ph.D. student at the University of Colorado Boulder. ianhatcher.net

Partner Organization
Dunes.fyi is an artist-run space that presents exhibitions, artist editions, books, talks, performances, and screenings. dunes.fyi, @dunes.fyi

beck haberstroh: *We are already gathered*
August 3–4 at 6:30PM EST; August 5 at 2PM EST
Parent Company, 165 Willoughby Street, Container #5, Brooklyn, NY
Registration via email

Generative AI companies rely on datasets that contain billions of photographs collected from across the internet. These photographs are of people—perhaps of you, or I, or people we love—many of whom will never know that their likenesses are included in these datasets and being used to generate images, videos, or filters for selfies. Confronting the vast scale of big data, beck baberstroh's workshop *We are already gathered* models alternative ways of counting, congregating, and identifying one another.

Engaging the formats of masquerade, open-ended group brainstorm, and social contract, this workshop aims to transform data back into lived relationships and explore what happens when we reclaim these alienated representations of ourselves. Impossibly, it attempts to heal and reconfigure our relationship to our corresponding data, virtual communities, agency, and sense of trust.

We are already gathered is rooted in the following principles for facial belonging. If these terms and conditions cannot be met, then haberstroh holds that the dataset should not exist. Everyone whose image is contained within a dataset will:

- know of and consent to their presence in the dataset.
- know of and consent to the uses of the dataset.
- be invited to participate in conversations around the use of the dataset.
- be invited to meet and form community with the others whose images are contained within the dataset.
- be invited to visit the facilities where their image is stored.
- be given an estimate of the environmental costs of the long-term storage of their image and asked to consent to this.
- be given a report on the working conditions of human laborers interacting with their image and asked to consent to this.
- be contacted by researchers using their image to discuss the emotional, social, technical, and historical implications of the presence of their image within the dataset.
- be credited and compensated for the use of their image.
- be given agency to rescind their consent to any of the above at any time.

Artist Biography
beck haberstroh is an interdisciplinary artist, writer, and facilitator. In 2022, they presented a public artwork in the City of San Diego's Park Social Initiative with collaborator Katie Giritlian and co-authored the book *Camera of Possibilities: A Workbook for a Carrier Bag Theory of Photography* (Brooklyn, NY: Paper Cameras Press) with Mira Dayal. They have participated in residencies and fellowships at SOMA, Mexico City (2022); BRIC, Brooklyn (2019); and Outpost Artist Resources, Queens (2018). Their work has been shown in group exhibitions at venues, including the Institute of Contemporary Art San Diego, San Diego; Small Editions, Brooklyn; Gymnasium, Brooklyn; Babycastles, New York; Knockdown Center, Brooklyn; Flux Factory, Queens; California State University Long Beach, Long Beach; and the Wassaic Project, Wassaic, NY. haberstroh holds a B.A. from Brown University and an M.F.A. from the University of California, San Diego. rhaberstroh.com

Partner Organization
Parent Company is an artist-run exhibition space founded in 2023 by Ada Potter. Located in a 250 square foot shipping container in downtown Brooklyn, the project seeks to support artists through exhibition opportunities, public programs, and events. parentcompany.net, @parent.company.gallery

Curator Biography

Nicole Kaack is an independent curator and writer. Her texts have been published by *Artforum*, *BOMB*, *Art In America*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, and *Sound American*. She has organized exhibitions and programs at The Kitchen, New York; Miriam, Brooklyn; Hunter College, New York; A.I.R. Gallery, Brooklyn; NARS Foundation, Brooklyn; HESSE FLATOW, New York; and Small Editions, Brooklyn. She is co-founder of the collaborative artist book project *prompt:* and is editorial program manager at the Institute for Studies on Latin American Art (ISLAA).