

Catalogue curated by
Jodie Taylor

Special thanks to
The White House and
The Transit Lounge

Bloodbath

Nicola Morton asks, what would you do with a bath of fake blood?

Bloodbath (curated by Nicola Morton) is going to put you in this situation, whether you are an invited participant or an opening night aficionado. As much a scientific experiment as an artistic statement, it examines the behaviour of its participants and punters, while cheekily subverting the Hollywood paradigm. Presenting itself on surface, video and in live performance Bloodbath is messy. It is a melting pot concoction of the feminine and masculine, live and recorded, a person's behaviour in closed (albeit 'hidden camera') and open environments, old concepts (horror) and new concepts (improvisation), activity and passivity. The artists approached to participate in Bloodbath come from varied backgrounds and motivations, but all share a passion for the opportunity to be put in a surveyed environment consisting only of a bath full of fake blood. Below is a synopsis from each participant about what they want to contribute to Bloodbath.

Jodie Taylor on the serious and the silly...

This is a chance to experiment, to move beyond my boundaries of comfort and explore an unfamiliar self. My initial state of inertia and my costume is symbolic of the passivity, sexual objectification and hyper-feminisation that constructs the notion of 'woman' in horror flicks. As I'm injected with blood and morph into a man, my actions become aggressive, ritualistic and violent finally returning to the site of my 'becoming' destroying the passive representation of femininity and thus destroying myself. The death of my masculine self confounds the culturally constructed masculine/feminine dichotomy, because any identity constructed upon a binary dualism requires the knowledge of an absolute opposite to validate the existence of itself. Thus, my statement is not executed with a feminist agenda but rather demonstrates the problem with reductionist representations of identity. Post Script: And I totally agree with Gwen... dirty naked destruction feels fucking fantastic.

What Kate McBean thinks of Bloodbath...

An opportunity to escape the realms of 'acceptable' behaviour and explore the possibilities that exist in this unknown environment. A release of hidden desires, passion and playfulness that exposes the secrets of human behaviour, free from the restraints of anything we know.

The Rights Ritual of Goddess Virtuella...

Tonight, for the first time in history, the winged Goddess Virtuella presents her book of virtues to the people, for all to know and from this day, put to action. Penned from the tip of her labrys, in the blood of the dammed, all other books of the world will burn as an offering for her provision of this divine wisdom.

For a better future for all...

"It is deeds not words which define our virtue and are the remedy to our inequities, so ideally, virtue must be embodied in habit. In everyday dealings, whether with family, friends or some randomly met stranger. Not simply in our intellect, admirations or resolutions, but in our actions. Just to recite conventional pieties is useless unless you are making motions to change, becoming human participants in the strategies of our visions for a better system, merging people in productivity."

The Labrys

A double headed ritual axe, found in ancient depictions of the Goddess, used as a symbol of female and matristic power. The word "labrys" in origin is from the same root as the Latin *labus*, or lips. Today, it is often used as a sign of identity, empowerment, and solidarity among wimin.

Janeworld in retrospect...

Janeworld was going to be deadpan and clinical in the face of a bath full of blood, but like in a horror movie, things got funny and she ended up laughing.

And Gwen Griffin says...

Bloodbath involved my favourite things: getting dirty, naked, destroying things and play fighting. My intention was to wear a tiger fur bikini and play with cat toys which included - rubber mice, yarn, a springy mouse and I also brought some other things along, fake tattoos, a mask, roses and most likely some other stuff that I have forgotten. It ended up not so catlike in the end but I don't think that really matters, I had more fun than I would have if I was just all catty. Interacting with other girls covered with fake blood is now on the top of my list of things to do again in the future.

Endnote: Countess Elizabeth Bathory bathed in the blood of 650 female victims.