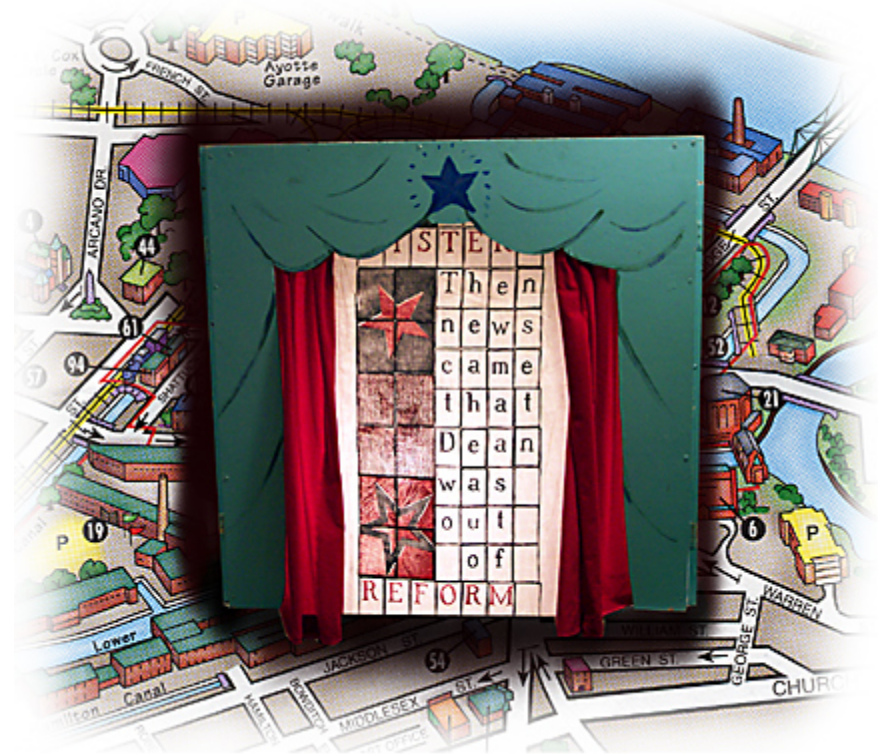




dadallama

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On The Scroll

119 Gallery, Sept. 1, 2007

2007 is the 50th anniversary of the publication of Jack Kerouac's autobiographical novel *On The Road*. The dadallama performance company meditates on this event with an evening of music, movement, video and theater exploring Kerouac's writings, his hometown of Lowell Massachusetts and the inter-relationship of fame and art.

The *dadallama* is a multimedia performance group that combines distributed composition, music, movement, performance art and live video manipulation. Directed by Mitchel Ahern, the company includes Joe Burgio, Paul Kafka-Gibbons, Marc Bisson, Walter Wright and DeiX.

Program:

1) Jack's Home

Source video of Jack Kerouac's hometown of Lowell Massachusetts is treated and combined with Kerouac's poetry and interpretive movement. Video by Walter, movement by Joe and Paul.

2) 23rd Chorus of the Orizaba 210 Blues

Kerouac's poem *23rd Chorus of the Orizaba 210 Blues* is read and musically interpreted by Mitchel Ahern and Marc Bisson.

3) Jack and Bill

Jack Kerouac and William S Burroughs are considered by movement artists Joe and Paul with musical accompaniment by Walter, Dei, Mitchel and Marc.

4) Mexico City Blues

Pre-linguistic elements of Kerouac's "Blues" poetry are vocally explored by Dei with accompaniment by Marc.

5) On The Scroll

As a meditation on the original scroll-manuscript of *On The Road* Mitchel has block-printed (with his own hand-carved alphabet) the first paragraph of the published novel on a 20-yard-long muslin scroll which he reveals while reading from the original manuscript.

7) Basement/Attic Dialectic

Joe and Paul speak extemporaneously about Kerouac's works and legacy, while engaging in interpretive movement. Accompanied by Mitchel, Dei, Walter and Marc.

"The Animated Scroll" Series at 119 Gallery is funded in part by the Lowell Cultural Council and Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Artist Bios

Walter Wright is an interdisciplinary artist, member of the Artists League of Lowell, and Director of 119 Gallery. One of the first video animators, he worked at Computer Image Corporation in the 1970's animating letters and words for The Electric Company. He was Associate Director at the Kitchen, and then left NYC to join the Experimental Television Center where he pioneered video performance touring with the Paik/Abe Video Synthesizer. In the 1980's he taught video art, sound art and computer graphics at William James College and at Virginia Commonwealth University. In the 1990's he worked as a software engineer for Truevision. He wrote his own performance video system, the Video Shredder. He moved to Boston then Lowell. For the past several years, he has been creating multimedia performances that include electronic music, video, and dance.

Dei Xhrist is a multidisciplinary artist with past performances in the Empire S.N.A.F.U. Restoration Project and currently performs in Birdorgan. She attended Savannah College of Art and Design and wishes she could paint, read and view films all day. Dei has had an ongoing interest in the Dada and Fluxus art movements which informs much of her work.

Marc Bisson is a free improviser who in a past incarnation desperately wished to be a famous blues and rock guitarist. Conversations with both Keith Rowe and Fred Frith and an ongoing interest in experimental and weird psychedelic musics led him to his current state of mind. Amongst others, he's worked with Kait Hernandez and Walter Wright in the Bop Ants, Dei Xhrist and Mike Fun in Birdorgan, and has studied with Mission of Burma's Roger Miller.

Joe Burgio and Paul Kafka-Gibbons form the discursive duo, Ému. Not to be confused with the large, flightless bird indigenous to Australia, Ému declines from the French verb "to be touched," or "to be moved." Joe and Paul, having never declined a chance to yak and roll around on the floor, specialize in creating performances that integrate text and movement. And yak, rather than roll, tend to lumber as they traverse the steppes of Central Asia in search of tasty lichens. You may liken Ému's steps and sentence structures to "My Dinner-Dance with Andre," or simply nip off to the concession stand for some popcorn. The choice is yours!

Mitchel Ahern is a performance artist and print maker. He has invented a variety of electro-acoustic musical instruments including the Lid, the Crutch, the Electroluxopipeophone, the Leaf-Springoleon and the Dremelophone. Mitchel performs on these instruments in musical groups such as the Mass Sonics, Judas and Natasha, The Invented Thing Quartet, PKD, Two Dead Trees and the dadallama Performance Company, in venues including the Knitting Factory, AS220, Zeitgeist, the Middle East, the Rat and galleries such as King Hooper and Gallery 119. Mitchel also writes performance art pieces such as Stalingrad, Martha Stewart in the Underworld, and Perky Pat Layouts which he performs solo and with a variety of participating artists. His current printmaking projects include printing cryptic slogans on flour sack cotton using linoleum block alphabets he designs and cuts himself which he calls The Angry Dishtowels and block-printing illuminated texts on bolts of muslin.