

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Wendy Osserman with newborn Liz Magic Laser rehearsing for *Preg. Echo*, Loeb Student Center, New York University, 1981.
Photo: Otto Berk

Progeny!

November 17, 2017 – January 6, 2018
At EFA Project Space, 323 W. 39th St., 2nd Floor

Opening Reception: Friday November 17, 6–8 pm
Performance by Wendy Osserman at 7 PM*

Artists: Carlos Amorales & Carlos Aguirre, Julian Hoerber & Ditta Baron Hoerber, Liz Magic Laser & Wendy Osserman, David Levine & Anne-Marie Levine, Nandi Loaf & Jean Patrick Icart-Pierre, Rosalind Nashashibi (featuring Vivan Suter and Elisabeth Wild), Jacolby Satterwhite & Patricia Satterwhite, Daniel Terna & Fred Terna, Hank Willis Thomas & Deborah Willis

Curators: David Levine, Prem Krishnamurthy, and Michelle Levy

Assistant Curator: Meghana Karnik

Progeny! takes as its premise the bilateral relationships of influence, genetics, and interdependence within artistic families. Pairing a group of contemporary artists with their artist-parents, the exhibition questions conventional ideas about creative inheritance. What happens when children inspire their parents? When does the need for autonomy outstrip the demands of heredity? How might unresolved dynamics and suppressed feelings become manifest by presenting artists and their artist-parents together? Informed by therapeutic approaches, the exhibition examines emotional

responses and conflicting interpretive modes, opening up the possibility for the show itself to function as a site for reconciliations and communication.

Selected with their singular backstories in mind, each pair suggests both conscious and unconscious connections between subject matter, artistic approach, and material palette. Some of these artists are so close that they continue to live and work under the same roof, such as media artist **Nandi Loaf**, and her father, political painter and teacher **Jean Patrick Icart-Pierre**; or **Frederick Terna**, Holocaust survivor and abstract painter, and his adopted son, **Daniel Terna**, whose photographic work is marked by his father's history. Other forms of intimacy are expressed through intergenerational quotation, such as in video and performance artist **Liz Magic Laser's** reciprocal working relationship with her mother, **Wendy Osserman**, a noted choreographer and dancer; **Hank Willis Thomas**, who collaborated with his mother, photographer **Deborah Willis**; and **Jacolby Satterwhite**, who incorporates the lyrics and drawings of his mother, **Patricia Satterwhite**, into the worlds of his animated videos. By contrast, the *dissimilarity* of works by sculptor **Julian Hoerber** and his mother, photographer **Ditta Baron Hoerber**, or **David Levine** and his mother, poet and artist **Anne-Marie Levine**, might seem to establish a mutual disavowal, but threads of creative interchange exist beneath the surface. For noted Mexican artist **Carlos Amorales** and his father, conceptualist **Carlos Aguirre**, the rejection of paternal influence even led the younger artist to adopt an artistic *nom de guerre* and contrasting working method.

Presented alongside these generational "diptychs," the exhibition features the first New York installation of 2017 Turner Prize nominee **Rosalind Nashashibi's** recent film, "Vivian's Garden," This 30-minute film depicts the tender relationship between daughter-and-mother artist émigrés, Vivian Suter and Elisabeth Wild, whose everyday interactions at their closed compound in Guatemala hint at a complex relationship of interdependence and inspiration.

*During the opening reception, Wendy Osserman will perform an update on her solo, "Not Letting Go" (2000) at 7 PM

EFA Project Space is located at 323 W. 39th St., 2nd Floor, NYC.
www.efanyc.org, projectspace@efanyc.org

Gallery hours: Wed - Sat, 12 - 6 PM
(Closed on Nov 23 - 24, and December 27- 29)

For press inquiries, please contact Meghana Karnik, EFA Project Space Program Manager at meghana@efanyc.org or 212-563-5855 x 229.

Curator Bios

Prem Krishnamurthy works between design, curating, editing, and teaching. He is Founding Principal of design studio Project Projects, which crafts identities for art institutions, public spaces, leading architects, non-profit organizations, and global brands alike. Project Projects is the recipient of the Cooper Hewitt's 2015 National Design Award for Communication Design, the USA's highest recognition in the field. From 2012–2017, Prem established and curated the critically-acclaimed exhibition space P! in New York City's Chinatown. He has curated exhibitions and programs at The Bass Museum, Austrian Cultural Forum New York, SALT (Istanbul), and Stanley Picker Gallery at Kingston University London, and is organizing a cycle of shows in 2018 on the work of polymathic artist and designer Elaine Lustig Cohen at the Jewish Museum, NYU's IFA, and other institutions. Having lectured and taught widely, he currently teaches at Barnard College. Working in robotics and computer science, Prem's mother painted watercolors during his youth.

David Levine's work explores relations of performance, spectatorship, and privacy in various aspects of our daily lives. His performance pieces have been commissioned by Creative Time, REDCAT, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, MASS MoCA, and MoMA, and he won a Village Voice OBIE award for his durational performance installation HABIT. His writing has been published by Triple Canopy, Mousse, Parkett, Cabinet, Bard CCS, and the Pew Foundation's keywords anthology, *In Terms of Performance*, and will be anthologized in a forthcoming book from 53rd State Press, *Best Behavior*. Most recently, Levine has created work for the Fondation Cartier, 83 Pitt Street, and the Williams College Museum of Art, where he also co-curated an exhibition about the performative object. He is Professor of the Practice of Performance, Theater, and Media at Harvard University. His family life was deeply affected by his parents' involvement in the Rothko Estate scandal.

Michelle Levy is an artist, curator, and Director of EFA Project Space program at The Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts. Levy developed EFA Project Space, launched in 2008, as a responsive platform for exploring cross-disciplinary connections between artists' practices and communities. She also founded EFA's SHIFT Residency, the only one of its kind, providing space, time, and support to artists who work for arts organizations in New York City. As an artist, Levy incorporates performance, storytelling, research and ritual to investigate the mediated spaces where identity is constructed (beginning with her own). Recent solo performances have been presented by Dixon Place, Theaterlab, and NUTUREart. For the past few years, her work has explored questions of legacy and inheritance within her own family.

EFA Project Space, launched in September 2008 as a program of The Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, is a collaborative, cross-disciplinary arts venue founded on the belief that art is directly connected to the individuals who produce it, the communities that arise because of it, and to everyday life; and that by providing an arena for exploring these connections, we empower artists to forge new partnerships and encourage the expansion of ideas.

The Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts (EFA) is a 501 (c) (3) public charity. Through its three core programs, EFA Studios, EFA Project Space and the Robert Blackburn Printmaking Workshop, EFA is dedicated to providing artists across all disciplines with space, tools and a cooperative forum for the development of individual practice. www.efanyc.org

EFA Project Space is supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and additional funding from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts



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