

# GALLERY 400

400 SOUTH PEORIA STREET (MC 034)

Chicago, IL 60607

UIC SCHOOL OF ART & ART HISTORY

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[gallery400.uic.edu](http://gallery400.uic.edu)

Tues–Fri 10–6, Sat 12–6

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Universal Declaration of Infantile Anxiety Situations Reflected in the Creative Impulse by My Barbarian**

September 5–October 18, 2014



My Barbarian, *The Mother*, 2013, performance view.

August 15, 2014—Chicago, IL— *Universal Declaration of Infantile Anxiety Situations Reflected in the Creative Impulse* is an exhibition by My Barbarian collective who are artists Malik Gaines, Jade Gordon, and Alexandro Segade. Founded in Los Angeles in 2000, My Barbarian combines elements of theater and visual art to create interdisciplinary works in video, music, performance, drawing, and sculpture. Their solo exhibition at Gallery 400 includes a live staging of the group's interpretation of Bertolt Brecht's 1932 play, *The Mother*, and a

video, *Universal Declaration of Infantile Anxiety Situations Reflected in the Creative Impulse* (2013). Hand-made masks and drawings associated with this performance will activate the gallery space for the show's duration.

In their adaptation of *The Mother*, My Barbarian tells the story of a working-class mother who becomes increasingly radicalized on the eve of the Bolshevik Revolution. While looking at the role of the woman as a mother, worker, and revolutionary in the modern world, the play considers the role of art within capitalist constraints and promotes the critical roles artists can perform. The video *Universal Declaration of Infantile Anxiety Situations Reflected in the Creative Impulse* (2013), stages playful scenarios that convey both continuity and change in feminist, conceptual artistic, and familial projects as they move through generations. In a series of interconnected "short films," Gaines, Gordon, and Segade perform with their own mothers as well as influential artists Eleanor Antin and Mary Kelly, enacting a personal and political matrilineage.

This multifaceted exhibit explores historical and contemporary interests in feminism, the symbolism of motherhood and love, as well as My Barbarian's own experiences as children, parents, and workers. The title of the exhibition borrows from the post- World War II document the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights," (co-authored by Eleanor Roosevelt) which was the first expression of global human rights and Melanie Klein's 1929 essay "Infantile Anxiety Situations Reflected in a Work of Art and the Creative Impulse," which investigated the way children relate to their mothers through objects and play. Utilizing camp humor, fantasy, and jarring aesthetic juxtapositions, My Barbarian brings a playful yet critical eye to their investigation of serious artistic, social, and political issues.

#### **Related Programs:**

Friday September 5, 5:00pm-8:00pm - ***Universal Declaration of Infantile Anxiety Situations Reflected in the Creative Impulse* opening reception + Performance by Malik Gaines** at 6:30pm

Friday September 19, 7:00-9:00pm – **My Barbarian Performance: An adaptation of Berthold Brecht's *The Mother***

Saturday September 20, 3:00p-5:00pm – **My Barbarian Performance: An adaptation of Berthold Brecht's *The Mother***

Wednesday October 8, 7:00pm-9:00pm – **Chicago Filmmakers Screening: *Half Suffocated***

Saturday October 11, 4-6pm – **Film Screening and performance: *A Feminist Perspective on Gun Violence in Chicago* featuring work by Lonnie Edwards, Michael Paulucci, Cheryl Pope and young poets**

Saturday October 18 2:00pm-4:00pm – ***Motherism* Panel featuring Elise Archias, Lise Haller Baggesen Ross and Hamza Walker**

#### **Tours:**

Gallery 400 offers guided tours for groups of all ages. Tours are free of charge but require reservation. Please complete our online form (accessible at [gallery400.uic.edu/visit/tours](http://gallery400.uic.edu/visit/tours)) to schedule a tour of *Universal Declaration of Infantile Anxiety Situations Reflected in the Creative Impulse*. For more information, or to discuss the specific needs and interests of your group, please contact us at 312 996 6114 or [gallery400@uic.edu](mailto:gallery400@uic.edu).

*Universal Declaration of Infantile Anxiety Situations Reflected in the Creative Impulse* is supported by the School of Art & Art History, the College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts, University of Illinois at Chicago and a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency. The Daryl Gerber Stokols and Jeff Stokols Voices Series Fund provides general support to Gallery 400. Support for the opening reception provided by Lagunitas Brewing Company and Dark Horse Wine.

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Founded in 1983, Gallery 400 is one of the nation's most vibrant university galleries, showcasing work at the leading edge of contemporary art, architecture, and design. The Gallery's program of exhibitions, lectures, film and video screenings, and performances features interdisciplinary and experimental practices. Operating within the School of Art and Art History in the College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), Gallery 400 endeavors to make the arts and its practitioners accessible to a broad spectrum of the public and to cultivate a variety of cultural and intellectual perspectives. Gallery 400 is recognized for its support of the creation of new work, the diversity of its programs and participants, and the development of experimental models for multidisciplinary exhibition.