



Image: My Barbarian, *Universal Declaration of Infantile Anxiety Situations Reflected in the Creative Impulse*, 2013, Photo by Robert Wedemeyer (installation view at Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects).

Incorporating video, live theatrical performance, and hand-made objects, *Universal Declaration of Infantile Anxiety Situations Reflected in the Creative Impulse* explores feminist legacies, the symbolism of a maternal order, first loves, and performance collective My Barbarian's personal negotiations as daughters, sons, students, teachers, and working mothers. The central video *Working Mother*—in which Gaines, Gordon, and Segade perform with their own mothers as well as artists Eleanor Antin and Mary Kelly—stages playful scenarios that convey both continuity and change in feminist, conceptual artistic, and familial projects.

On two occasions the group performs a live staging of their adaptation of Bertolt Brecht's 1932 play, *The Mother*. Telling the story of a working-class mother who becomes increasingly radicalized on the eve of the Bolshevik Revolution, the play centers on the power of the affective maternal relationship to foster social change. Alongside *Working Mother* and video documentation of the performances, papier-mâché masks and drawings associated with the performance activate the gallery space. The drawings refer alternately to the woodcuts of painter Mary Cassatt and the drawings of Käthe Kollwitz, whose images of motherhood inform the entire exhibition.

Events

Friday, September 5
5-8pm

Opening Reception, with a performance by Malik Gaines at 6:30pm

Friday, September 19, 7-9pm
Saturday, September 20, 3-5pm

My Barbarian performs an adaptation of Bertolt Brecht's *The Mother*

Wednesday, October 8
7-9pm

Half Suffocated, screening co-presented with Chicago Filmmakers

Saturday, October 11
4-6pm

A Feminist Perspective on Gun Violence in Chicago, screening and performance

Tuesday, October 14
6-7pm

Poetry Reading, co-presented with the Poetry Foundation

Saturday, October 18
2-4pm

Motherism Panel, Elise Archias, Lise Haller Baggesen Ross, and Hamza Walker

Universal Declaration of Infantile Anxiety Situations Reflected in the Creative Impulse

My Barbarian (Malik Gaines, Jade Gordon, and Alexandro Segade)