

Grand Arts presents...

AN EVENING OF WARMING

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2010 AT GRAND ARTS 6-10PM

FEATURING BATHTUB TAROT READING, A CRIER, A THERAPIST, A TUNER, A MEDIATOR, PLUS SURPRISE BATHERS, GUESTS, LIVE PERFORMANCES

IMPROBABLE FUTURES FOR UNPOPULAR PLACES

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2010 AT GRAND ARTS 6:30PM

AN EVENING WITH ROB WALKER, NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE "CONSUMED" COLUMNIST

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 1, 2010

Just as the holidays and cold weather approach, Grand Arts offers some respite. An **"Evening of Warming" will commence on Saturday, Dec. 11th from 6-10PM**, a seasonally celebratory continuation of *Dialogue By Design: Experimental Platforms for Intimate Conversations*.

Then on the following **Wednesday, December 15, please join us for "Improbable Futures for Unpopular Places" a talk by Rob Walker at 6:30pm**. All are invited. Reservations for the talk on the 15th are encouraged due to limited seating: contact Tasha Karsk, Gallery Assistant at gallery@grandarts.com or call the gallery, 816.421.6887.

"An Evening of Warming" entails processions, activities and performances, which will unfold and overlap as a non-linear dramatic play. There will be opportunities for wonderland-meets-living-room-meets-kitchen discussions and parlor-game-meets-fireside chats, as well as participatory demonstrations, choreographic calls and response, hospitalities and services rendered, ceremonial processions to commence over tea, snacks and merriment. From 6-7pm ONLY, interested querents may leave names for an opportunity to have a bathtub tarot reading in situ. Names will be called later in the evening. Inquire upon arrival. Querents must be present to bathe.

The PLAYERS of the **"Evening of Warming"** include: the Tarot READER in the bath; **George Lu** as the CRIER; **Maria Calderon** as the MEDIATOR; **Shawn E. Hansen** as the TUNER; **Gary Huggins** as the PROJECTOR; **Julia Vering-Young** as the THERAPIST. Surrounded by correspondent artists, musicians, filmmakers, and chefs, visitors are encouraged to engage a variety of entertaining scenes, often intimate, either public or private to enhance the warming effort.

"Improbable Futures for Unpopular Places" a talk by the *New York Times Magazine's* "Consumed" columnist **Rob Walker**, will take place on **Wednesday, December 15th at 6:30PM**. In addition to his writing for the *Times Magazine*, Walker is co-founder of The Hypothetical Development Organization, a diverse group of photographers, architects, journalists, publishers and designers who imagine unlikely and entertaining new uses for neglected buildings. The organization produces renderings, signage and plans for what these forsaken architectural sites *could* be (but won't), with New Orleans chosen as the home of their first projects, featuring such imaginary cultural landmarks as The Museum of the Self and The Loitering Centre. Walker will share examples of the research he has culled in furtherance of the HDO project and its place in the context and history of "architectural fiction", an emerging genre that draws stories from, or imposes stories on, the built environment. The task of making something out of nothing is not new to Walker: along with cohort Joshua Glenn, he created the "Significant Objects Project," an experiment investing "thrift store flotsam" with new meaning through imaginative short fiction.

Rob Walker is a columnist and contributing writer for *New York Times Magazine*, a regular contributor to *Fast Company*, and the author of *Buying In* and *Letters From New Orleans*. A former editor at *The Times Magazine*, he has also written for *Slate*, *The New Republic*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *Adbusters*, among others. He lives in Savannah, Georgia, with his wife, photographer Ellen Susan.

The Warming event is organized by Grand Arts assistant director Lacey Wozny with generous support from collaborators. Thanks to Sienna Jobe, Emily Sall, Chef Carmen Cabia and Ryan Fletcher, Seth Johnson, Jimmy Button, Sarah Vandersall, Lynus Young, Todd Schulte, Jenna Hammond, Robin Rosenberger, Natasha Karsk, Summer Farrar, Hmh Services, Neal Wilson and to our friends and neighbors.

For more information about these events, *Dialogue By Design* or other Grand Arts programs, please email us at gallery@grandarts.com. We are also on **Facebook**.