

MEDIA ALERT



Lucy Dodd (b. 1981), installation view of *Wuv Shack* at David Lewis Gallery, 2015. Courtesy the artist and David Lewis Gallery, New York. Photograph by Jenny Kim.

OPEN PLAN: LUCY DODD

March 17- March 20, 2016

Currently underway at the Whitney Museum of American Art is *Open Plan*, an experimental five-part exhibition using the Museum's dramatic fifth-floor as a single open gallery, unobstructed by interior walls. The largest column-free museum exhibition space in New York, the Neil Bluhm Family Galleries measure 18,200 square feet and feature windows with striking views east into the city and west to the Hudson River, making for an expansive and inspiring canvas.

For four days only, from March 17-20, Lucy Dodd (b. 1981) turns the gallery into a site of artistic exploration and live action for her *Open Plan* presentation. For her *Open Plan* project, Dodd has turned the fifth-floor gallery into a site of artistic exploration and live action. Before the exhibition opened to the public, Dodd created a new large-scale painting within the space while other elements of the installation were set up around her. The installation's title, *B.O.V.*, is an abbreviation for the classic art-historical subject of the birth of Venus. Dodd likens her recent creation to the mythic goddess of love, who was born from the frothy ocean, and throughout the duration of the project musicians will celebrate the painting and welcome it into the world. By bringing together a range of performers, Dodd hopes to create "a space of ritual action and improvisation demanding a longer and broader engagement on the part of the audience." The free-standing shaped canvases surrounding the main painting are intended to evoke sails or waves and are the artist's response to the gallery's river views.

Dodd regards painting and sculpture as organic entities and she employs substances that she finds meaningful. These include foodstuffs like yerba mate and walnuts, minerals such as hematite, and also the bacteria and yeast-based starter material for kombucha—a type of fermented tea. Like her ingredients, her work carries with it smells, tastes, and textures, as well as the possibility of transformation.

Performances occur each day throughout the run of the exhibition:

Thursday, March 17

11am-1pm: Lucy Dodd and guest
1pm-2pm: Mariana Barcellos and band
3pm-4pm: Mariana Barcellos and band
5pm-6pm: Jenny Bates

Friday, March 18

11am-1pm: Jenny Bates
2pm-3pm: Mariana Barcellos and band
4pm-6pm: Mariana Barcellos and band
7pm-10pm: Fabiano do Nascimento and Sam Gendel

Saturday, March 19

11am-1pm: Jenny Bates
1pm-3pm: Mariana Barcellos and band
3pm-6pm: Fabiano do Nascimento and Sam Gendel
7pm-10pm: Mariana Barcellos and band

Sunday, March 20

11am-1pm: Jenny Bates

2pm-4pm: Mariana Barcellos and band

4pm-5pm: Lucy Dodd and guest

5pm-6pm: Sergei Tchernin

Open Plan: Lucy Dodd is organized by associate curator Christopher Y. Lew.

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About the Whitney

The Whitney Museum of American Art, founded in 1930 by the artist and philanthropist Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney (1875–1942), houses the foremost collection of American art from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Mrs. Whitney, an early and ardent supporter of modern American art, nurtured groundbreaking artists at a time when audiences were still largely preoccupied with the Old Masters. From her vision arose the Whitney Museum of American Art, which has been championing the most innovative art of the United States for more than eighty years. The core of the Whitney's mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit American art of our time and serve a wide variety of audiences in celebration of the complexity and diversity of art and culture in the United States. Through this mission and a steadfast commitment to artists themselves, the Whitney has long been a powerful force in support of modern and contemporary art and continues to help define what is innovative and influential in American art today.

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