

Brooklyn College of CUNY
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**Performance and
Interactive Media Arts (PIMA)**

Helen Richardson and David Grubbs, *Coordinators*

Symposium on Virtual performance

Thursday, July 16, 2020 at 7 p.m.

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Introduction

David Grubbs

Presentations on PIMA 2020 online MFA thesis presentations

Malena Dayen and Sangmin Chae
Exercises on *The Presence of Odradek*

Inkyoung Bae and Chanan Ben Simon
The Weather Channel

Emily Twines
lookingGlass

Presentations on tools, techniques, and possibilities for presenting virtual performances

André Zachery

Ryan Holsopple

Eva Peskin and Justine Williams

Moderated discussion

Program Notes

The Performance and Interactive Media Arts (PIMA) MFA program at Brooklyn College held a public event via Zoom at 7pm on Thursday, July 16 centering on virtual gatherings and presenting performance work online. This opportunity for resource-sharing was an occasion to explore how artists are creating, teaching, assembling, and organizing in virtual space.

When the pandemic struck this past spring, the three collaborative PIMA MFA thesis performances had to be reconceptualized in order to be presented in virtual space. The artists responsible for these three projects came up with three modes in which to present their work: (1) as an opera linking multiple locations, combining live and recorded elements, and using virtual reality ("Exercises on The Presence of Odradek"); (2) as a television opera about a catastrophe that forces people to stay at home and watch TV ("The Weather Channel"); and (3) as an experiment in virtual interactive theater via online gaming ("lookingGlass").

This 2-hour event featured presentations on each of these three performance works by artists Inkyoung Bae, Chanan Ben Simon, Sangmin Chae, Malena Dayen, and Emily Twines, as well as additional short presentations by Yale University instructor and PIMA graduate Justine Wolf Williams, PIMA graduate Eva Peskin, PIMA instructor and designer and programmer Ryan Holsopple, and Renegade Performance Group artistic director and PIMA graduate André Zachery.

Following these presentations, the floor was opened to a discussion not only about presenting work online, but also the challenges of teaching, organizing, and working collaboratively in virtual gatherings.

We encourage you to view documentation of these performances on the Conservatory website, bcmusic.org, or via the following links:

Malena Dayen and Sangmin Chae: Exercises on *The Presence of Odradek*
<https://youtu.be/CWD74ox9dU8>

Inkyoung Bae and Chanan Ben Simon: The Weather Channel
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=daoL1XlubCE&feature=youtu.be>

Emily Twines: lookingGlass
<http://emilytwines.com/lookingglass/>
<https://youtu.be/IAacV8FBgsY>

—notes by David Grubbs