



Interdisciplinary Artist, Johannes Gerard

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Twelve International artists will live in the nude for ten days, to create artworks about what a “Naked State” means, in this art residency by Arts Unfold, taking place at Bare Oaks Family Naturist Park, Aug 7-16.

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NAKED STATE art residency produced by Arts Unfold, and taking place at Bare Oaks Family Naturist Park August 7-16, announces its **twelve multidisciplinary artists from around the globe**. They are coming from as far as South Korea, Netherlands, Australia, United Kingdom, and across Canada and the United States to explore the human nude and a “naked state.”

For twelve days, the artists and residency Facilitator live as *naturists (in the nude) within the naturist community of **Bare Oaks Family Naturist Park** to create works that explore questions such as: What is nudity? Does stripping away clothing rid us of class, gender, and personal expression?; Do the connections between our bodies and the land change when nude? Is nudity always sexual? What is the role of the nude in historical and contemporary art?; Is an animal with fur naked?; and, Is there a natural state for human being?

Tavia Christina is a multidisciplinary métis artist in Canada who will recreate a new body born from the land; Canadian artist, **Gabrielle Bélanger**, will explore the undressing process through audience participation and cyanotype prints; **Johannes Gérard**, a German-Dutch interdisciplinary artist, will conduct a participatory performance with naturists; **Andrea Hoff** a Canadian writer, artist, and storyteller will explore embodied narratives through a visual-textual novella, “Ten Days, No Clothes”; **David King**, UK artist and naturist, will draw to lift the secret veil surrounding nude living; **Martin Lang** from the United States will record video that explores the Bare Oaks landscape; **Young Ju Lee** from South Korea and the U.S. will paint new corporeal sensations that she will experience while being nude for ten days; Australia visual artist, **Tess Van Lubeck**, will explore the ‘Greek Ideal’ in a modern context; American video artist, **Naomi Moser**, will investigate the performance of gender through on-screen portrayals of the naked female body; **GVBQ**, an American experimental landscape photographer, will document visual evidence of human presence around the park environment; **Krysta Sa**, an artist from the U.S. will investigate group and pair dynamics through ceremonies found in nature; and **Emilia Wilson** is a queer, disabled, Canadian multidisciplinary artist who will create expressions of their body on canvas with natural pigments. For details on the artists visit NakedState.ca/artists-2017.

This thematic and programmed residency consists of facilitation by multimedia artist **Teresa Ascencao**, a naturism seminar with **Stéphane Deschenes**, artist talks, workshops and open studios, and a special guest talk by **Virginia Eichhorn** who was Curator of *Getting Naked* exhibition at TheMuseum in Kitchener. The **closing show is on Thurs August 16**, whereby artists present their creative and naked explorations to the public.

Naked State is a creation of **Arts Unfold**, which produces art and design projects in Canadian and European communities to foster greater understandings of social and environmental conditions. Teresa Ascencao, the Art Director of Arts Unfold, is a Multimedia Artist and Naturist. Her work toys with social constructs of body language, costume and inner corporeal experiences. Ascencao's work has been exhibited across Canada and internationally. She lives and works in Toronto and teaches at OCADU.

Residency dates: **August 7 – 16, 2018**

Closing event: **Thursday August 16, 3pm-9pm**

Where: **Bare Oaks**, East Gwillimbury, Ontario

*Not all locations are wheel chair accessible. Please inquire about accessibility.

More information: **NakedState.ca** and **ArtsUnfold.com**

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