

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Portland Institute for Contemporary Art and STROLL PDX are pleased to announce *No Human Involved: The 5th Annual Sex Workers' Art Show*. Opening November 8, 2019, and closing December 14, 2019.

Opening Reception + Celebration, Friday, November 8, 2019

6:00–9:00 PM Reception / 9:00 PM–12:00 AM Celebration / *Details on pg. 2*

Co-curated by Kat Salas and Matilda Bickers of STROLL PDX and Roya Amirsoleymani of Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA), *No Human Involved: The 5th Annual Sex Workers' Art Show* is an exhibition of visual art and performance by artists who are, or have been, sex workers, selected through an international open call. The phrase “no human involved” (“NHI”) is a slang term that has been commonly used by police to refer to crimes involving the murder or injury of sex workers, drug users, gang members, immigrants, and transient folks, with Black and Brown populations disproportionately affected. The phrase has since been used by numerous artists, activists, filmmakers, scholars, and writers across media, literature, and research to illuminate and bring awareness to targeted forms of violence against marginalized communities.

No Human Involved: The 5th Annual Sex Workers' Art Show speaks to dehumanizing socio-political systems and cultural conditions through the artistic voices and viewpoints of sex workers themselves. Far from just a show “about” sex work, and intentionally subverting or rejecting clichéd romanticized or pitiable representations, *No Human Involved* seeks to complicate narratives of sex work by showcasing artists' projects that critically examine and engage—and deconstruct and reconstruct—dynamics of emotion, labor, landscape, language, humor, family, identity, and community. Taking place at PICA (15 NE Hancock St), the exhibition will open with a free reception and celebration on Friday, November 8, 2019. The gallery will be open to the public on Thursdays and Fridays 12:00–6:00 PM and Saturdays 12:00–4:00 PM, closing December 14, 2019.

In addition to the opening night, the launch events for *No Human Involved* will include a multi-day symposium investigating and celebrating art, activism, politics, and publishing in sex work, with a keynote lecture by Emi Koyama co-presented with PNCA's MA in Critical Studies Program. The exhibition will also be accompanied by the release of a special edition of *Working It*, a publication of critical and creative writing by sex workers, to be designed and printed by STROLL PDX in collaboration with London-based visiting artist Rose Nordin (Rabbits Road Press, OOMK), and in partnership with the Independent Publishing Resource Center (IPRC).

STROLL PDX will be residence with PICA through the duration of the exhibition, organizing periodic events and gatherings that center and serve local sex worker communities.

Due to mature content, this exhibition is recommended for ages 18 and older.

*****EXHIBITION DETAILS TO FOLLOW*****

The logo for PICA (Portland Institute for Contemporary Art) features the letters "PICA" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The text is positioned on a bright yellow, horizontal brushstroke that has a slightly irregular, hand-painted appearance.

15 NE HANCOCK
PORTLAND OREGON 97212
503 242 1419
pica.org

IMPORTANT EXHIBITION INFORMATION / DATES / TIMES

Exhibition Title

No Human Involved: The 5th Annual Sex Workers' Art Show

Dates

November 8–December 14, 2019

Location

PICA, 15 NE Hancock Street, Portland, OR, 97212

Co-Curators

Kat Salas and Matilda Bickers (STROLL PDX), and Roya Amirsoleymani (PICA)

Artists

Amanda Lee, Brittany Marie Chavez, Dee Lyrium, Ev Echovia + Bane Belladonna, Evie Snax, Juicebox, Julia Arredondo, Kathleen Boudwain, Mona Superhero, Pallace de la Garza, Philip Edward King, Pxssycontrol, Sathya, sean chamberlain, and The Stripper Project.

Opening Reception + Celebration, Friday, November 8, 2019

6:00–9:00 PM Reception with hosted bar

6:30 PM Curators' and Artists Remarks

7:15 PM Performance by Dee Lyrium (Portland)

8:00 PM Performance by Juicebox (New Orleans)

9:00 PM–12:00 AM Celebration with cash bar, dance party, and DJ

Gallery Hours

Thursdays & Fridays, 12:00–6:00 PM

Saturdays, 12:00–4:00 PM

Age Advisory: 18+

*****SYMPOSIUM DETAILS TO FOLLOW*****

The logo for PICA (Portland Inland Community Art) features the word "PICA" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letters are set against a bright yellow, brush-stroke-like background that tapers off to the right.

IMPORTANT SYMPOSIUM INFORMATION / DATES / TIMES

Symposium: *Art, Activism, & Publishing in Sex Work* November 6, 7, & 9, 2019

In conjunction with the exhibition *No Human Involved: The 5th Annual Sex Workers' Art Show*, this series of free, public programs will explore the intersection of art, activism, and independent publishing, with a particular focus on sex workers and their communities.

November 6, 2019: Lecture by Emi Koyama

6:30–8:00 PM / Pacific Northwest College of Art / FREE AND OPEN TO ALL

PICA, in partnership with PNCA's MA in Critical Studies Program, presents a free, public lecture by Emi Koyama, a multi-issue social justice activist, writer, and rogue intellectual. Emi often writes and speaks out about feminism, sexual and domestic violence, sex work/trade and trafficking, queer and trans liberation, and intersex and disability issues, among others.

**This event is generously co-presented and sponsored by PNCA's MA in Critical Studies. Special thanks to Shawna Lipton, Program Chair, for her collaboration and support.*

November 7, 2019: Panel Discussion, *The Politics of Desire*

6:30–8:00 PM / Portland Institute for Contemporary Art / FREE AND OPEN TO ALL
Sober Program, No Alcohol

Centering the voices of artists who are current and former sex workers, this panel will debunk common myths and misconceptions in sex work politics, and illuminate related topics, issues, and debates, including decriminalization vs. legalization; sex work in the age of the internet, technology, and social media; feminism, sex positivity, and empowerment; SESTA-FOSTA; and sex trafficking's relationship to sex work.

Moderated by Kat Salas (STROLL PDX), Co-Curator of No Human Involved, with Sathya (Bay Area), Juicebox (New Orleans), and Christina Najera (Portland)

November 9, 2019

12:00–4:00 PM / Portland Institute for Contemporary Art / FREE AND OPEN TO ALL

12:00 PM Release Party: *Working It*

Arrive early to eat, drink, and peruse archival displays of printed ephemera by sex worker groups. Be one of the first to pick up your limited edition copy of *Working It*, a publication of critical and creative writing and art by sex workers. Edited and published by STROLL PDX; designed and printed in collaboration with visiting artist Rose Nordin at the IPRC. During this event STROLL PDX, Rose Nordin, and PICA will make a brief introduction to the publication and its history, speak to the production process, and recognize contributors to this special edition.

Complimentary refreshments will be served. All proceeds from the sale of Working It will benefit STROLL PDX.

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The logo for PICA (Portland Institute for Contemporary Art) features the letters "PICA" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letters are positioned on a bright yellow, horizontal brushstroke that has a textured, painterly appearance.

12:30–1:30 PM - Artist Talk: Rose Nordin (London, UK)

Visiting artist Rose Nordin (London, UK) has collaborated with STROLL PDX to design and print a special edition of their publication, *Working It*, in partnership with Portland’s IPRC, and on the occasion of PICA’s exhibition and symposium, *No Human Involved: The 5th Annual Sex Workers’ Art Show*. Nordin’s artist talk will highlight her practice in graphic design, illustration, self-publishing, and education, including the co-founding and curation of projects such as Rabbits Road Press, a community Risograph printing press; *One of My Kind (OOMK) Zine*, a publication about women, art, and activism; and *DIY Cultures*, one of the UK’s largest independent publishing fairs.

2:00–3:00 PM - Panel Discussion: *Collaboration Across Communities*

Kat Salas and Matilda Bickers of STROLL PDX, Rose Nordin of Rabbits Road Press and *OOMK Zine*, and Roya Amirsoleymani of PICA discuss their collaborative curatorial and organizing processes behind *No Human Involved: The 5th Annual Sex Workers’ Art Show* and STROLL’s publication, *Working It*. This conversation will touch on questions of communication, power, and resources across institutional and grassroots economies, international cultural contexts, and the relationship of activism and community organizing to contemporary art, design, and publishing.

3:00–4:00 PM - Closing Hour: Symposium Wrap-Up

Join the artists and partner organizations behind *No Human Involved* for the symposium’s final hour, when we honor everyone who came together to realize this program and announce other events and activities to take place from now until the exhibition’s close on December 14th.

ABOUT STROLL PDX

STROLL PDX is a harm reduction, outreach, and education group run by and for Sex Workers. Outreach includes supplying meals to houseless individuals; organizing events such as art shows, workshops, community panels, support groups, and clothing drives; and publishing *Working It*, a quarterly zine.

ABOUT PORTLAND INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART (PICA)

Portland Institute for Contemporary Art acknowledges and advances new developments in contemporary art, fostering the explorations of artists and audiences. Since 1995, PICA has championed the practice of contemporary artists from around the world, driving vital conversations about the art and issues of today. PICA presents artists from visual and performance backgrounds and embraces those individuals who exist at the borders of genres and ideas. Through artist residencies and exhibitions, lectures and workshops, and the annual Time-Based Art Festival, PICA constructs a broad platform for contemporary art.

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