

PRESS RELEASE

Monday, April 23rd, 2018

SAAB in partnership with Ideal Glass Studios presents: AYAKAMAY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW YORK, NY – SAAB Projects in partnership with Ideal Glass Studios is pleased to announce an evening with Japanese-American performance artist Ayakamay on Thursday, April 26th from 7-10 p.m at Ideal Glass Studio located on 22 E. 2nd Street. To kick off 2018, Ayaka will be performing at Ideal Glass along with international DJ group sensation In Flagranti. The evening will also include a special performance by Ideal Glass artist Willard Morgan.

Ayakamay will be presenting a one time only interactive performance that explores the themes of ritual, cultural exchange, celebration, and mourning. Known for her previous provocative performances throughout New York City, such as “Mimikaki,” “Genderless” and “Unconscious Education,” Ayakamay seeks to provide an experience that is both educational and thought-provoking. Ayaka’s works have a pervasive foundation of cultural appropriation that entice with an exotic foreign allure, yet embody a strange familiarity and calmness that draws in and captivates the unsuspecting viewer.

In Flagranti, a DJ music group made up of Alex Gloor & Sasa Crnobrnja, will be performing as a part of their Hotfoot American tour before they travel over to the west coast. In addition to their independent, energetic DJ sets that span from the 1960s to present day, they will be performing their two singles produced with Ayakamay, “Kachi Kachi” and “MAKE MAKE, YOU LOSE YOU LOSE.”



Doors open at 7 p.m. followed by Willard Morgan’s performance at 7:30 p.m., and Ayakamay at 8:15 p.m. until she is joined by In Flagranti at 9 p.m.

SAAB

9 West 8th Street | New York, New York | 10011

About the Artist

Ayakamay (b. 1985, Nashville, Tennessee) has lived and worked in New York since 2004, and since 1998 in Tokyo, Japan. Ayakamay's family traveled back and forth to Japan where the family decided to settle down when she was ten. Having been raised in an American lifestyle, the cultural shift to Japan was especially overwhelming as Ayakamay struggled to acclimate herself to a radically different culture. As she was being forcibly shoved into a mold that she did not yet fit, she found solace in art.

Ayaka's work has been collected and shown at premier art fairs, performance halls and galleries throughout the world. Namely, Basel, Switzerland; Miami, Florida; New York, New York; London, England; San Francisco, California; Kyoto, Japan; Tokyo, Japan; and Osaka, Japan. Ayaka's mural *Mad Supper* (2012), depicting her two childlike alter egos (Momoko and Ayakamay), will be on loan to the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston in the fall of 2018.

Currently, Ayakamay's mural *Catastrophe* is on view at Ideal Glass Studio located at 22 East 2nd Street.



About In Flagranti

In Flagranti is a DJ & dance music production duo consisting of Alex Gloor and Sasha Crnobrnja. Since 2002, In Flagranti has continued to explore the endless possibilities of their 'cut and paste' esthetic. Their DIY attitude, which came in many forms such as "Organic Grooves," Sasha's long running weekly party and the legendary "Smylonylon" tapes Alex mixed and sold at the Smylonylon shop in Soho in the 90s, gained them a lot of street credibility in New York and abroad. In Flagranti pushes the envelope further by adding video clips to accompany each song. These are displayed on Codek's website and show their visual influence. Described by xlr8r magazine as "Rare Grooves From Another Planet," The duo started their own record label "Codek Records," which marked its 20th anniversary in 2016.

About Willard Morgan

Willard Morgan is an actor, singer, and performance artist whose latest work, "VESTIPHOBIA," an immersive theatrical experience, has toured internationally and was recently staged in Havana, Cuba. Currently, Willard is writing and producing the television show "FASHIONABLES," a six episode dramedy revolving around the lives of young fashionistas making their way in New York City.

About Ideal Glass

Ideal Glass is an artist's space dedicated to fostering a creative community of artists, fashion designers, writers, performers, musicians, and filmmakers in the East Village. Through Ideal's mural wall, art exhibitions, screenings, and performances the organization seeks to transcend traditional disciplinary boundaries and provide a space where alternative modes of thought are supported and activated. The Ideal Glass space is specifically dedicated to creating room for collaborations, conversations, and exchanges with international

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creative communities. In 2018, Ideal Glass debuted its new interactive educational programming schedule which will focus on international and thought evoking performances including surrealist art by acclaimed artists and musicians from Europe, Latin America, and Asia.

About SAAB Projects

Since its inception in 2008, SAAB art projects has supported and presented a mix of internationally established and mid- career artists alongside promising young emerging talent. SAAB focuses on contemporary digital and conceptual art as well as additionally abstract processes of creation. SAAB has curated exhibitions in public and private spaces, and has worked with internationally acclaimed and emerging artists alongside the top curators, galleries, and institutions within the art world to foster the growth of contemporary art. SAAB is located in a historic mansion in Greenwich Village, New York and is open by appointment only.

For more information about this performance or to schedule an interview with the artist, please contact Henry Quinson at henry@saabartprojects.com. All images are subject to copyright. Approval must be granted prior to reproduction.

Please join the conversation with Ayakamay, SAAB Projects, and Ideal Glass on Facebook ([@theayakamay](https://www.facebook.com/theayakamay) [@saabprojects](https://www.facebook.com/saabprojects) [@idealglass](https://www.facebook.com/idealglass)) and Instagram ([@ayakamay](https://www.instagram.com/ayakamay) [@saabprojects](https://www.instagram.com/saabprojects) [@idealglass](https://www.instagram.com/idealglass)) via the hashtags #ayakamay #saabprojects #idealglass

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