

About the Artist

For over 30 years, Morrison has created singular and participatory works through the use of video and performance to include, dancers, youth groups, workers and community participants. Her focus is for those participating -including herself- to react either spontaneously or in ways that are determined by, or that subvert the environment or the subtext of the setting.

Her pieces have been performed, exhibited and screened internationally, at festivals, galleries and museums, including the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Brooklyn Museum, the Kunstlerhaus e.V., Hamburg, and CINESONIKA in Vancouver. Grants, fellowships and residencies include the Tree of Life Foundation, Maryland State Arts Council, Illinois Arts Council, the New York State Council on the Arts, Wexner Center for the Arts, and the Sacatar Institute in Bahia, Brazil. As a distinguished educator she has been faculty at Pratt Institute, Rutgers University, Illinois State University, and a visiting artist at Sarah Lawrence, the University of Minnesota, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Museum School of Fine Arts, Boston, and SUNY Oswego amongst others. She is currently on the faculty at the Baltimore School for the Arts.

Learn more: <http://mandymorrisonart.com/>



TREE of LIFE FOUNDATION

MANDY MORRISON

Journey of the Invader Spirit



January 26 - March 12, 2023

On view at The Peale, 225 Holliday Street, Baltimore, MD
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About

Mandy Morrison: Journey of the Invader Spirit is an exploration of industrialism and environmentalism through Mandy Morrison's multimedia artwork. Baltimore's urban landscape, the cosmos, and Brazil's rich rainforest collide in this exhibition, initiating a conversation about late-stage capitalism, spirituality, and the human condition.

"Spirits of Promise and Loss" depicts figures interacting with the urban landscape and taking over the desolate infrastructure through the use of photography and animation.

The faceless figures are ghosts that used to serve the capitalistic economy that was the bloodline of the piece's setting. Viewers will witness the ghosts dancing, playing music, smoking, and flying across the artwork's various panels. They act with a sense of reclamation towards the neglected buildings that they once believed would bring forth economic and social prosperity. A murder, human metamorphosis, and an interactive flurry of paper sheets flowing with the wind are also amongst the visual elements of the installation. "Spirits of Promise and Loss" is commentary on the current decline of the American economy and pictures the working class repurposing the abandoned spaces that used to buzz with commerce and social interaction.

Journey of the Invader Spirit is a multimedia installation that reimagines the Earth's history, from its genesis to the present day. The narrative is centered around a pair of twin spirits, primordial entities whose disagreements are responsible for grand developments in our world, such as the creation of bodies of water,

Pangea's breakup, and the Industrial Revolution. One twin is distinguished as Mind Matter, who represents greed, consumerism, domination, and control. His sister, the Spirit Flesh, advocates for harmony and values above all else the interconnected web that encapsulates all living things. Their union results in the birth of the Invader Spirit, the embodiment of our current climate crisis. The story told in **Journey of the Invader Spirit** is a wondrous reinterpretation of human history that illustrates our greatest flaws and our innate desire to fight for the survival of the world we inhabit.

Mandy Morrison commands ghosts and spirits as the guides on this journey through her artwork's various settings, while storytelling visuals transcend time and space to discuss the cause and effect of our world's current state. **Mandy Morrison: Journey of the Invader Spirit** shines a light on a downtrodden metropolis that is not too far off from an economic collapse, the environmental impact of manufacturing, and the overarching effects of capitalism on our daily lives. However, Mandy Morrison's artwork is ultimately about humanity's inextinguishable hope that we can rehabilitate society and our planet before it is too late.

Mandy Morrison: Journey of the Invader Spirit is a call to action, to remember our world is sustained by our relationships with other people and our environment as we relearn to coexist with one another in an age of global health crises, environmental decline, and technological advancement.

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