

WESTERN ★ PROJECT

Ron Athey

Born in 1961

Lives and works in Los Angeles

VISITING ARTIST LECTURES, PANELS, and WORKSHOPS

Australian Museum, Sydney, Australia; School of Chicago Art Institute, Chicago, Illinois; Tate Modern, London, United Kingdom; Gallerija Kapelica, Ljubljana, Slovenia; Mix Festival, Sao Paulo, Brazil; CENDEAC, Murcia, Spain; Art Center, Pasadena, California; San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, California; Otis Parsons, Los Angeles, California; National Performance Network, New Orleans, Louisiana; Center for Drama Studies, Zagreb, Croatia; California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, California; Ex-Teresa, Mexico City, Mexico, Talks About Acts, LAXART, Los Angeles, California

PERFORMANCE: LIVE ART and MULTI-MEDIA THEATER

April 2009

Visions of Excess, Spill Festival, Shunt Vaults, London, United Kingdom

February 2009

Resonate/Obliterate I.E., featuring Julie Tolentino, Heather Cassils & Zachary Drucker, sponsored by UC Riverside, Riverside, CA

January 2009

Self Obliteration #1 – Solo Performance and premiere of *Self Obliteration #2* – Solo Performance, Hau3 Hebbel Theater, Berlin, Germany

October 2008

Ecstatic – Solo Performance, Teatr Dramatyczny, Warsaw, Poland

Ecstatic – Galerie SAW, Ottawa, Centre Clarke, Montreal, Canada

The Judas Cradle, Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec, Canada

July 2008

Resonate/Obliterate, Remy's on Temple, Los Angeles, California

April 2008

Ecstatic – Solo Performance, Donau Festival, Krems, Austria

Ecstatic – Solo Performance, Portland, Oregon

Ecstatic – Solo Performance, Open Space, Victoria, Canada

October 2007

Ecstatic – Solo Performance, Souterrain Porte IV Festival, Nancy, France

Ecstatic – Solo Performance, La Demeure du Chaos, Lyon, France

June 2007

Ecstatic – Solo Performance- Premiere, Arnolfini Gallery, Bristol, United Kingdom

Re/Visions of Excess – co-curated with Lee Adams, Fierce Festival, Birmingham, United Kingdom

May 2007

Incorruptible Flesh: Perpetual Wound – Collaboration with Dominic Johnson, Fierce Festival, Birmingham, United Kingdom

April 2007

Incorruptible Flesh: Perpetual Wound – Collaboration with Dominic Johnson, Chelsea Theatre (co-commission with Fierce Festival), London, United Kingdom

November 2006

Incorruptible Flesh – Collaboration with Dominic Johnson, Chelsea Theatre (co-commission with Fierce Festival), London, United Kingdom

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June 2006

Solar Anus, Hayward Gallery, London, United Kingdom

May 2006

Incorruptible Flesh [Dissociative Sparkle]– durational performance, Artists Space, New York, New York

February 2006

Incorruptible Flesh [II Luminous]– durational performance, National Review of Live Art, The Arches, Glasgow, Scotland

February 2006

The Judas Cradle – excerpts of operatic duodrama with Juliana Snapper, Sex Matters: Sexualities Across the Disciplines Conference, University of California Riverside, Riverside, California

November 2005

The Judas Cradle – operatic duodrama with Juliana Snapper, PERFORMA 05 at Participant Inc., New York, New York

July 2005

The Judas Cradle – REDCAT/Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles, California

May – April 2005

The Judas Cradle – Granary Theatre, Cork, Ireland; Chapter Arts Center, Cardiff, Wales; Colchester Arts Center, 291 Gallery, London, United Kingdom; Contact Theatre, Manchester, United Kingdom; Fierce Festival/Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, United Kingdom; The Centre for Contemporary Arts, Glasgow, Scotland

December 2004

The Judas Cradle (excerpt) – Aksioma Festival, Castle Codelli, Ljubljana, Slovenia

July 2004

The Judas Cradle (excerpt) – Cetrone Studio, Los Angeles, California

July 2002

Joyce – 3 screen large format video with 4 actors, 50 minutes, UK tour produced by Fierce Festival: Birmingham, United Kingdom, Glasgow, The Centre for Contemporary Arts, London, United Kingdom, Stratford Theatre

June 2002

Joyce – 3 screen video with 4 actors onstage, Birmingham, United Kingdom, Odeon Theatre

Joyce – Glasgow, Scotland, The Centre for Contemporary Arts

February 2002

Joyce – Production residency and premiere. Kamnagel, Hamburg, Germany

October 2001

Pleading In The Blood: Video/Lecture with performance excerpt. Leipzig, Germany

May 2001

Pleading In The Blood, Festival Musica 90, Turin, Italy

Jan 2001

The Solar Anus + excerpt from *JOYCE*, Kanonhallen, Copenhagen, Denmark

December 2000

The Solar Anus + *St. Sebastian*, Body Probe, London, United Kingdom

April 2000

3 Solos: Solar Anus, St. Sebastian, Suicide, teatropolivalenteoccupato, Bologna, Italy

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February 2000

The Solar Anus, NGBK, Berlin, Germany

The Solar Anus, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island

January 2000

3 Solos: Solar Anus, St. Sebastian, Suicide, Highways, Santa Monica, California

August 1999

3 Solos: Solar Anus, St. Sebastian, Suicide, Forum des Images, Paris, France

April 1999

The Solar Anus, HT Gallery, Chicago, Illinois

The Solar Anus, Mobius, Boston, Massachusetts

February 1999

The Solar Anus, Hothouse, Chicago, Illinois

The Solar Anus, FIST, London, United Kingdom

The Solar Anus, The Victoria Room, San Francisco, California

January 1999

The Solar Anus, Centre des Arts Saidye Bronfman, Montreal, Canada

December 1998

The Solar Anus, Action Space, Los Angeles, California

November 1998

The Solar Anus, Matthew Marks Gallery, *New York, New York*

The Solar Anus, Luciano Inga-Pin. Milan, Italy

October 1998

The Solar Anus, Galerija Kapelica, Ljubljana, Slovenia

September 1998

Trojan Whore – memorial piece for Leigh Bowery, La Videotheque, Paris, France

January 1998

Trojan Whore + excerpts *Deliverance*, Rexane, Rotterdam International Film Festival

November 1997

Pleading In The Blood, Performance, video, Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff, Wales

October 1997

Pleading In The Blood. Lecture, video, performance, Fotofeis, Glasgow, Scotland

July 1997

Deliverance, Inteatro XX, Festival of new theatre, Polverigi, Italy

June 1997

Deliverance and Incorruptible Flesh, Cankarjev Dom; Ljubljana, Slovenia

June 1997

Deliverance and Incorruptible Fles, Eurokaz Festival; Zagreb, Croatia

May 1997

Four Scenes In A Harsh Life, L'Aeronef, Lille, France

Four Scenes In A Harsh Life, Pez Ner, Lyon, France

Four Scenes In A Harsh Life, Bite Generation, Nantes, France

November 1996

Deliverance, Sigma Festival, Bordeaux, France

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October 1996

Deliverance, Schmidt Theater, Hamburg, Germany
Deliverance, Kaaitheater, Brussels, Belgium

July 1996

Deliverance, Triple X Festival at Westergasfabriek, Amsterdam, Netherlands

February 1996

Incorruptible Flesh and research residency, Center for Contemporary Art, Glasgow, Scotland

December 1995

Deliverance, premiere, Rapture season, ICA commission, London, United Kingdom

November 1995

Four Scenes In A Harsh Life and *Martyrs & Saints*, Kanonhallen, Copenhagen, Denmark

October 1995

Martyrs & Saints, and *Four Scenes In A Harsh Life*, Ex-Teresa, Mexico City, Mexico

July 1995

The Trojan Whore, tribute to Leigh Bowery, Matthew Marks Gallery, New York, New York

May 1995

Four Scenes In A Harsh Life, Festival Atlantico, Lisbon, Portugal

March 1995

Four Scenes In A Harsh Life, The Green Room, Manchester, United Kingdom

April 1995

Four Scenes In a Harsh Life, Center on Contemporary Arts, Glasgow, Scotland

December 1994

Deliverance Work-in-progress, Highways, Santa Monica, California

October 1994

Four Scenes In A Harsh Life, Performance Space 122, New York, New York

July 1994

Four Scenes In A Harsh Life, Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, United Kingdom

March 1994

Four Scenes In A Harsh Life, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota

October 1993

Four Scenes In A Harsh Life, Los Angeles Theater Center, Los Angeles, California
Four Scenes In A Harsh Life, Highways Performance Space, Santa Monica, California

June 1993

Martyrs & Saints, Performance Space 122, New York, New York

May 1993

Martyrs & Saints, Randolph Street Gallery, Chicago, Illinois

November 1992

Martyrs & Saints premiere, Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions, Los Angeles, California

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April 1992

Surgical Stigmata, Highways Performance Space, Santa Monica, California

March 1982

Premature Ejaculation, Arts Building, Los Angeles, California

October 1981

Premature Ejaculation, Arts Building, Los Angeles, California

VISUAL ART EXHIBITIONS/VIDEO INSTALLATIONS

- 2009 *Ronny Lee* video (2001), *All That Is Solid Melts Into Air*, Museum van Hedendaagse Kunst Antwerpen, Antwerp, Brussels
Tattoo, Kathleen Cullen Fine Arts, New York, New York
- 2008 Selected Videos, Solo Show, Centre Clarke, Montreal, Canada
Ecstatic, Video screening, Endurance Festival, VIVID, Birmingham, United Kingdom
- 2007 Ecstatic, Video screening, MIX Fest, New York, New York
- 2006 *Video Stills and Set Pieces from an Opera*, Western Project, Culver City, California
In This House That I Call Home, Western Project, Culver City, California
- 2004 *The Leopard Spots: Between Art, Performance and Club Culture*, 18th Street Arts Center, Santa Monica, California.
Ronnie Lee, Vena Mae, video installations, Shedhalle, Zurich, Switzerland
St. Sebastian: A Splendid Readiness for Death, group show, Kunsthalle, Vienna, Austria
"Crown and Pedestal," group show, *In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida, Baby*, Western Project, Culver City, California
- 2001 *Ronnie Lee*, video installation, Museum of Contemporary Art, Antwerp, Germany
- 2000 *Catherine Opie: Large Format Polaroids*, Thread Waxing Space, New York, New York
- 1999 *The Bathroom Show*, painting group show, New Image Art, Los Angeles, California
Rosso Vivo, photographs, group show, Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea, Milan, Italy
- 1998 *Hollywood Satan*, Crown and Pedestal installation, group show, curated by Cliff Benjamin, Mark Moore Gallery, Santa Monica, California
Fuck You, We Paint, group show, New Image Art, Los Angeles, California
- 1997 *Human Printing Press*, video installation, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 1996 *Incorruptible Flesh*, solo exhibition of relics, artifacts, costumes, and fountain with fictitious identities. ACME, Santa Monica, California
Homosexual Overkill, photos and video, group show, Rita Dean, San Diego, California
- 1995 *The Human Printing Press*, video installation and scarification imprints. Persistent Dispositions/Technotronic Identities, group show, California Institute for the Arts, Valencia, California
- 1994 *The Human Printing Press*, scarification imprints. *Flesh and Ciphers*, group show. HERE Foundation; New York, New York

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The Human Printing Press, video installation of documentation with and scarification imprints. *Sanctuary (moth to the flame)*, group show. TZ'Art & Co.; New York, New York

Four Scenes: Storyboards, collage and photographic documentation. *An Inquisition*, group show; Radix Gallery, Phoenix, Arizona

1993 *Four Scenes*: Storyboards, collage and photo documentation. *Co-Conspirators*, group show; James Corcoran Gallery, Santa Monica, California

PROGRAMMING/CURATION

July 2001/July 2002

Co-curated with Dr. Vaginal Davis *Platinum Oasis*, a performance/installation/actionist event as part of OUTFEST Los Angeles. The durational site-specific work took place at the Coral Sands Motel in Hollywood, Hollywood, California

May 2003

The Fierce Festival presented "Visions of Excess" at The Demon lap dance club in Birmingham, United Kingdom

The motel and lapdance sites featured various lineups of the following artists, filmmakers, actors, and musicians: Kembra Pfahler (US), Bruce La Bruce (Canada), Udo Kier (Germany), Catherine Opie (US), Franko B. (UK), Kira O'Reilly (UK), Osseus Labyrinth (US), Davide Grassi (Slovenia), Ann Magnuson (US), Marisa Carnesky (UK), Velvet Hammer (US), Lydia Lunch (US), Nicole Blackman (US), Slava Mogutin (Russia), and US-based bands: Kid Congo Powers, Little Annie, Tracy and the Plastics.

WRITING AND JOURNALISM

Ron Athey is a features writer for *LA Weekly*. He has written profiles on and interviewed writers, profiled evangelists, and contributed regular style coverage. He has also written for *Paper*, *Village Voice*, *Virus Mutations* (Milan), *Honcho*, *Details*, *Ben Is Dead*, and *The Advocate*. Athey is currently writing *Gifts of the Spirit*, a collection of short stories and recollections based on his training to be a Pentecostal minister, and the accompanying perversions. Athey has been anthologized in *Strategic Sex*, Hayworth Press; *Unnatural Disasters: Recent Writings from the Golden State*, Incommunicado Press; *Out of Character*, and *Acting on AIDS*, Serpent's Tail. He also contributed an essay and work in the Tate Modern publication from the Live Culture 2003 season.

DOCUMENTARIES/ACTING/ART DIRECTION

2007 *Ecstatic*, performance for camera, Cyril Kuhn
2006 *The Judas Cradle*, interactive DVD, filmmaker Lisa Cazzato-Vierya
2001 *Ron's Story*, documentary; filmmaker Davide Grassi
2001 *Solar Anus*, documentary; filmmaker Cyril Kuhn
2000 *No One Sleeps*, actor; filmmaker Jochen Hick
2000 *Shadow Hours*, art direction and actor; producer Balthazar Getty
1999 *Hot Men/Kool Boyz*, actor/narrator; Zentropa Films
1998 *Hallelujah! Ron Athey: A Story of Deliverance*, documentary by Catherine Gund
1997 *Ron Athey: It's Scripted*. 20 minute documentary; filmmaker Ian Kerkhof
1997 *Sex Lives In L.A.*: documentary; filmmaker Jochen Hick
1997 *Martyrs & Saints*, 29 min. documentary; filmmaker Simeon Hutner
1996 *Hustler White*: actor; directed by Bruce la Bruce and Rick Castro
1995 *I Go Wild*: art direction and actor; Rolling Stones/music video
1994 *A Little Sadness*: director and actor; Porno for Pyros/music video
1993 *The Blind Owl*: actor; directed by Reza Abdoh
1993 *Single White Female*: actor; directed by Barbet Schroeder

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GRANTS/AWARDS/COMMISSIONS

- 2006 Chelsea Theatre/Fierce Festival, commission, *Incorruptible Flesh*
2005 Art Councils of Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales, Commission, *The Judas Cradle*
2002 Production residency grant for *Joyce* – Kampnagel – Hamburg, Germany
2000 Alliance for the Arts/Estate Project for Artists with AIDS and Catherine Opie:
Large Format Polaroids
1999/ Agnes B. sponsorship grant for Forum des Images performances in Paris,
1998 France
1996 Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department grant for *Deliverance* development
1996 Center on Contemporary Arts, Glasgow, Scotland, research residency

1995 – Live Arts Department. Institute for Contemporary Art, London, England, commission
for *Deliverance*
1994 – PEN Center West Award for HIV/AIDS writers
1994 – Peter Norton Family Foundation, *Four Scenes In A Harsh Life*, performance at
PS122, New York, New York
1994 – Art Matters, Inc.

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- Abbe, Mary, "Walker Seems Surprised at Reaction to Mutilation Show," [Star Tribune](#),
March 29, 1994
Abbe, Mary, "Bloody Performance Draws Criticism," [Star Tribune](#), March 24, 1994
Armitstead, Claire, "Piercing Thoughts, Ron Athey's Act is Likely to Shock, Even Sicken
London Audiences," [Guardian Week](#)
Brantley, Ben, "A Little Infamy Goes a Long Way," [The New York Times](#), October 29,
1994
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Piercing and Other Body Modifications is at the Center of the Latest NEA Funding Flap," [Los Angeles
Times](#), July 2, 1994, pp. F1 & F14
Butler, Kateri, "The Art Issue: Ron Athey: In Extremis and in My Life," [Los Angeles Times](#),
January 28, 2007
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Harris, William, "Demonized and Struggling with his Demons," [The New York Times](#),
October 23, 1994, pp. 31 & 35
Hays, Matthew, "Ron Athey, America's Most Controversial Performance Artist, on S&M
Ritual, Being Used by the Religious Right and the Difficulties of Staging Castrations,"
[Montreal Mirror](#), 1999
Lewis, Judith, "Blood, Boots, and White Weddings. Under Assault from the Right, the
'Tattooed Love God' explains his Mantra," [L.A. Weekly](#), July 14, 1994
Mulholland, Mitchell, "On the Wag: Resonate/Obliterate," [artillery](#), September/October 2008
Thomas, Kurt, "The Poseur," [Artillery](#), Vol. 1, No. 2, November 2006