



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Who's Afraid of Magic?
Macon Reed

Institute of Contemporary Art Baltimore
at Spacecamp
16 West North Ave, Baltimore, MD 21201

Opening Public Reception:
Saturday, November 19, 2016 6 - 9 p.m.

Exhibition Runs:
November 19 - December 18, 2016

Open Hours:
Saturdays and Sundays 12 - 4 p.m.
(except Nov 26 - 27) and by appointment

Contact:
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Institute of Contemporary Art Baltimore presents *Who's Afraid of Magic?* an exhibition by Macon Reed at Spacecamp in Baltimore, MD. Incorporating multiple video projections and works on paper in a wall-to-wall painted landscape *Who's Afraid of Magic?* addresses extensive "witch" persecutions over a three hundred year period in Europe, drawing ties between these cruelties and the rise of early capitalism. Working from Silvia Federici's text *Caliban and The Witch*, this multi-media installation questions notions of power as it relates to intelligence and bodies, fictions and realities, and the perceived threat of both imagination and magic. Video works include a ritual sacrifice of a human maypole and intimate, playful storytelling within a diorama of brightly colored small sculptures. Reed's DIY pop aesthetic mixes with painted images of medieval torture devices, asking us to connect the dots between historic and contemporary treatments of "other" and things we do not understand.

Macon Reed, *maconreed.com*

Macon Reed works in sculpture, installation, video, radio documentary, and participatory projects to explore notions of belonging, the limits of optimism, and play as ritual transcendence from frameworks of evolving queer and feminist discourses. Her work has shown at venues including PULSE NYC Special Projects, ABC No Rio, The Kitchen and Wayfarer's Gallery in New York, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, and the Chicago Cultural Center. Macon completed her MFA at the University of Illinois at Chicago as a University Fellow in 2013 and received her BFA from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2007. Additionally Reed studied Radio Documentary at the Salt Institute for Documentary Studies, Physical Theater at the Dah International School in Belgrade, and Art and Social Engagement at The Kitchen's Sidney Kahn Summer Institute. Recently Macon attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture and is currently an artist in residence at both Eyebeam and Flux Factory in New York.

Spacecamp, *s-p-a-c-e-c-a-m-p.net*

Spacecamp creates temporary autonomous zones for the habitation of social and cultural activations. Spacecamp is an open source, curated community space for artistic projects in Baltimore. Spacecamp is governed by a group of 5 people who set the schedule and coordinate with potential collaborators who are interested in using the space. Spacecamp does not program the space for its own projects, but partners with organizations that will produce great shows with artists or groups of artists.

Institute of Contemporary Art Baltimore, *icabaltimore.org*

Institute of Contemporary Art, Baltimore is a collaboration of volunteers working to stage contemporary art exhibitions in available spaces in Baltimore. *Who's Afraid of Magic?* is the twenty-third exhibition by the Institute of Contemporary Art Baltimore since 2011.

This exhibition is made possible in part by a grant from the Robert W. Deutsch Foundation.



Detail of *Astral Witness*
Gouache on paper
22x30 inches
2016