

## The Meditative Mechanism & Its Human Activation: Rituals Toward Collective Magic and Cosmic Unity

As an evolving artist, I see myself progressing toward an art-form that relies heavily on the human body's interaction (generally my own in experimental performative contexts) within designed systems consisting of the constructed apparatus, its concurrent environment and all corresponding methods of activation. The links between the human being, material-form and the consequences of such relationships are the most crucial components of my investigation. Through the realization and ritualization of the machine, the experiential element (psycho-spiritual resonance) of the operator and the audience within the system becomes the crux of the art-form.

Through the employment of mostly industrial material, I strive to bridge the gap between the utopian austerity often linked to modernist principles and the dystopian psycho-spiritual undercurrents of our contemporary predicament...all via blunt subversion of modernist material-rhetoric.<sup>1</sup> The transgression of this obsolete construct is a faceted goal of the larger system of my material cognition. It is the aggregated intuitions and anxieties present in our society (in a state of such precarious modernity, no less) that I attempt to identify, reflect on and refract outwardly. Through this goal, I hope to spiritualize and thus re-humanize a post-industrial environment that has become susceptible to its own dehumanizing tendencies.

Extracting from Eastern and Western (as well as ancient into neo-modern) practices, my spiritual concentration manifests largely through the study of Tantra Yoga. Norse/Pagan, Zen/Buddhist and Native American/Shamanistic philosophy, theology and mythology, however, also inform my explorations. In these ways, I attempt to examine and synthesize seemingly disparate historical and cultural resources to comprehend and in turn create a universal language, which I envision contributing to (and ultimately honoring) the all-encompassing system of universal spirit, or life force. This transcendental philosophy endorses and is supported by the belief in the collective, cosmic consciousness, but introduces the absolute necessity for the unification of the physical, psychological, and spiritual dynamics of reality. The spiritual can only evolve via the physical and vice versa...these intrinsic

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<sup>1</sup> This is a destructive language articulated via patriarchal aggression and self-ordained authority, employed to sustain ego-dominance and maintain archaic grips of power. It is most distinctly exhibited via the flex of machismo present in the majority of Minimalist praxis.

forces must operate in tandem to one another. When the forces are perfectly aligned, true magic is effectively performed.

The formation of magic, the heightened goal of my artistic practice as well as the transmitter of psycho-spiritual empathy (the intended function of magic: the transmission of cosmic energy), can only conjure through ongoing discipline via physical and cognitive focus and exercise. It is the commitment to these practices that allow for the tapping into and channeling of cosmic wisdom.

These explorations are executed through physically and psychologically challenging performances. It is my hope that these performances incite what I identify as psycho-spiritual empathy.<sup>2</sup> The formation of cosmic unity is the intended outcome of true psycho-spiritual empathy. Only when a work transcends the components that create it (light, sound, material form and physical action) and connects rather with the universal truth from which its inspiration came, can this art-form transmit energy and in turn form a transcended empathetic relationship. Albeit through direct confrontation of both light and dark forces—the creative and destructive as well as the masculine and feminine—the cosmic connection is crucial.

The human being is an essential and beautiful component of the universe, born of the stars. I wish to honor that intrinsic divine connection by contributing to the progress of our spiritual evolution. It is my hope that my practice allows for the works' transcendence beyond the realm of mere objecthood toward and into the dimension of the sacred.

Ryan Brewer, 2010.

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<sup>2</sup> At its most rudimentary level, the formation of psycho-spiritual empathy connotes the hyper-cognitive union of art-form, artist and audience. Mere cognition, a base-level mental process, is the individuated precedent to a higher level of human functioning—the ability to channel cosmic wisdom via collective spiritual experience.