

TCHANA PIERRE

INDIRECT FREE ASSOCIATION



Tchana Pierre is a Raleigh based artist whose work delves into the physical and psychological effects of human emotions on the mind and body. Through his art, Pierre explores how feelings such as love, joy, anxiety, grief and lust manifest within us shaping our perceptions, behaviors and physical forms. Working primarily in acrylic, sculpture, sound and film, Pierre combines figuration and abstraction to challenge the viewer's understanding of the real and pseudo-real.

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Indirect Free Association will explore desire through mechanisms of avoidance, substitution, and disguised affection. Conceived as a live performance, the work will examine the boundaries of artist–audience relations and will challenge conventional understandings of authorship and artistic authority. The piece will be in collaboration with local exotic dancers—performers whose labor is frequently reduced to objectification despite its rigorous performative intelligence—the project will reframe the exhibited body as an active artistic agent. Rather than presenting the nude form as a site of consumption, the work will position it as a subject of aesthetic consideration, reclaiming its agency, complexity, and formal beauty.

The performance will unfold within a staged environment that oscillates between theatrical construction and authentic intimacy. Within this shifting space, audiences will be invited to reconsider their relationship to art, performance, and spectatorship itself. The work will emphasize proximity, duration, and presence, allowing meaning to emerge through lived encounter rather than fixed narrative.

Formally, the performance will consist of open-ended interactions between audience members and participating artists (the painter and the dancer) while the painter produces a work that responds to and records these encounters in real time. This structure will be supported through durational movement, carefully controlled sightlines, and a deliberately sparse soundscape designed to heighten awareness of the performers' labor and embodied presence. By imposing a controlled flow within the space, the work will interrupt passive modes of viewing and instead demand an intentional engagement with the politics of looking and the aesthetics of embodiment.



Indirect Free Association will operate simultaneously as a live action and a conceptual proposition. By dissolving hierarchical distinctions between artist, performer, and viewer, the project will question where artistry resides and who possesses the authority to define it within institutional and cultural contexts.



1. Exhibition Format & Technical Requirements:

- Model will pose on coach and audience will be invited to interact with model within consensual guidelines
- Audience will be provided with sketchpads and pencils to participate in live drawing
- Archival canvas/paper mounted on a photo backdrop roll
- Side table to hold artist's painting supplies
- Audio system/speakers to create soundscape

2. Timeline:

- The performance will be a single day 4 hour exhibition
- The painting made as part of the performance along with video recording of performance can be exhibited at space
- Proposed dates (May, July, or August)

3. Documentation Plan:

- Archival video for exhibition following opening
- Archival photos to document performance and audience interactions
- Collage of all artwork created by audience

4. Budget:

- Artist will fund all painting material requirements
- Gallery/Space to fund audience material (sketchpad and pencils)
- Gallery/Space to provide material required for setup

5. Selected Works / Visual Reference:

- Visit artist site tchanapierre.space to view previous work

6. Ethical Considerations:

- Artist to work with model and gallery/space to draft ethical disclaimer to ensure model is respected during performance

