

PRESS RELEASE

"4.5 Hours: A Public Enactment of a Private Ritual"

Michelle Standley

South Temple Square

Salt Lake City, Utah

October 6th, 2019

10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



You are warmly invited to attend my performance art piece, "4.5 Hours," that will take place at South Temple Square in Salt Lake City, Utah on October 6th, 2019, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The work takes its inspiration from a study conducted by the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development, which concluded that worldwide, on average, women perform 4.5 hours of unpaid domestic labor every day. During the performance, I sweep up a pile of dirt on a rug, gather it in a dustpan, dump it in a bucket, and then throw it onto the rug again. Then I start all over, repeating the ritual for 4.5 hours. "4.5 Hours" is a public expression of my private experience of domestic labor as something undervalued and unseen. You can find out more about me, the piece, including a video clip of a previous performance of "4.5 Hours," and accompanying essays and articles about women and domestic labor at: michellestandley.com

This is the third time I've performed the piece, but the first time in the United States. I chose Salt Lake City as the site of my latest enactment of "4.5 Hours" because as someone who was raised Mormon, I well understand the very gendered nature of the division of labor that characterizes most Mormon homes. I also consciously chose to perform it on a Sunday, on what is supposed to be a day of rest from labor, but for most women, Mormon or otherwise, is not. While it's not for me to decide for individuals how to navigate these complicated choices, I feel compelled, nonetheless, to make visible the invisible, and to spark a conversation where little to none exists.

I am a Berlin and New York City-based writer and artist. My research and writing have appeared in various publications, including *The Journal of Architecture*, *e-flux/art agenda*, *New York* magazine, and in edited volumes from Routledge University Press and Berghahn Books. My writing and conceptual artwork, done under the moniker of "The Tourist," reflect a preoccupation with travel & tourism, cities & globalization, labor & leisure, architecture & contemporary art. Before pursuing my various projects full time, I taught lecture courses and research seminars in world history and on tourism and modernity to undergraduate art and design students at Cooper Union and Pratt Institute in New York City. I hold a Ph.D. in Modern European History from New York University.

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