D A R L A

eat slow sketch show*: *da movie

conceptualized and directed
by sur
in collaboration with
experimental school for black imagination

As a curator participant in LMCC's Art Residency on Governor's Island, I committed to reflecting on the residency's theme of 'climate change' through the lens of my current research on Black disinheritance. I wanted to curate an exhibition on flourishing: How do we keep learning to live well grounded in ancestral knowledge to keep on keepin' on? What does love feel like living in alignment with earth in this present moment? How do we conjure long horizons of joyful abundance into the future?

We gathered together to make a delicious day of play on a semi-closed set at the mid-summer Open Studios event. Trust me, truly you had to be there, and we went all the way there, healing ourselves in a world often too cruel to bear but also too good not to try to keep learning how to love ourselves.

eat slow sketch show is an experimental artwork crisscrossing live theater with meditative skits that burst past scroll rotting. Instead, we are softly driven by the desire to uplift creativity and enjoy making high frequency Black environments.

The dynamism of the beautiful mindful artists' practice is the hopeful alternative to the algorithmically-trending market driven art world that tries and fails to choke us off from living well. Instead, the intent of being medium savvy by making living happen here, becomes networked embodiment. In our play is the felt response to the question I proposed for my curatorial research at the beginning of the residency.

How does flourishing manifest in Black life worlds in spite of hundreds of years of dehumanizing subjugation exacerbated today by violence that has been coming for our necks for far too long?

Like dis! Thank you sur.

eat slow sketch show is love in motion, an immersive happening celebrating the flourishing of Black creative ease through improvisational immersive theater and the holy everydayness of a vegan soul food plate.

What does nourishing diaspora mean? Poppin off by walking back into the faithful loving trust of us. Nourishment is leaping through the air unencumbered by expectations of anything but soft ground, a big tooth laugh activating scenes to help some of us with shyness at the queer club (blush!).

By grounding ourselves through this here and now play of shaking ass to thousands of rotations on bass beat to breathing meditation and improvisational choreography we work wonders flowing with abundance of resources including the hope of all impossibilities meeting in consciously attuned embrace.

An immersive art installation moving toward a televisual experience eat slow sketch show is conceptualized and directed by the artist sur in collaboration with the experimental school for Black imagination. In unity we are weaving together live performance, participatory movement, interviews, and the culinary arts to make environments that will sustain us here and now then and there.

eat slow sketch show: the movie premiers as a one day only broadcast this Saturday October 17th as part of the final 2026 Open Studios Artist Residency at the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council on Governors Island.

We Be Comin Free, a zine made by the collective and doulaed by Zella is on view.

Open Studios (the finale!)
Saturday October 17
12:00-5:00PM
Lower Manhattan Cultural Council
Governors Island