

## Chat

November 12, 2020 – *From Touch Sanitation (1979-1980) to For → Forever... (2020): Two Works by Mierle Laderman Ukeles Respond to a City in Crisis*

12:37:22 From William Furio: For closed captioning: When the captioner starts writing, the “CC” button appears for viewers. Viewers can then click on “Subtitles” next to the CC button to show captioning and then choose “Show full transcript” to have the full transcript appear on the side of the screen.

For ASL interpretation: LCIS Interpreting Services, who are providing closed captioning and ASL interpretation, suggest participants who are deaf or hard of hearing use a desktop, laptop or tablet, instead of a phone. If the participant who is deaf or hard of hearing would like to see the interpreter on the full screen, choose the Interpreter’s box and click on the 3 dots in the corner, then choose “Pin Video.”

12:54:14 From sara : Surfin’ Bird by the Trashmen is playing.

12:56:43 From Kathy Brew : Hi Mierle .. Great to see you virtually! (Kathy Brew here)

12:57:43 From amanda : Hi Merle, greetings from Lille!

12:58:13 From Amy Lipton : Hi Mierle, Amy Lipton here! excited to see you today

1:00:26 From Lesly she/her : What a welcome experience. Thank you all for organizing. Excited. Coming in from beautiful Beacon, NY Hudson Valley.

1:04:58 From AKaiser : Thanks for pulling this together for us all. -AK~

1:08:41 From fulyaerdemci : Hi Mierle and Sally,  
1:08:55 From fulyaerdemci : Greetings from Denmark

1:09:36 From Lauren Bon : Hello all from Southern California—Thanks for hosting this  
Sally

1:09:39 From Laura Raicovich : Hi Mierle, Sara, and Sally!!! Love to you all!!!

1:16:20 From Lauren Bon : Such a great Image on so many levels  
1:16:41 From Lauren Bon : Body language —arms folded and open  
1:17:46 From Lauren Bon : “ Do you do anything”

1:17:53 From Jill Miller : ^^

1:18:30 From Lesly Deschler Canossi / Women Picturing Revolution (she/her) : A pioneer! All of us artists who happen to be mothers owe so much to you.

1:19:05 From annshafel : Thank you, Mierle, this is profound!

1:19:19 From Jill Miller : Yes!

1:21:44 From jo novelli-blasko : Your work is always resonant for me and in these times I find it deepening even more so! Thank you for your courage, stamina and persistence, performance!

1:24:56 From Alice Wu : Wonderful. Who took the last photo?

1:25:19 From Milenka Berengolc : From Milenka Berengolc  
1:26:47 From Milenka Berengolc : I have always loved this performance, and was thrilled to present documentation of the work in an exhibition I curated several years back, "Life as Art". Thank you Mierle!

1:36:27 From Jean Cooney : Beautiful, heartfelt, and poignant words Mierle!! Thank you for sharing them with us.

1:36:48 From Laura Raicovich (she/her) : SOOO beautiful!!!

1:36:49 From Tamsin Dillon : Great film congratulations!

1:37:03 From Yona Verwer : very moving

1:37:06 From Priscilla Stadler : applauding for this beautiful work!!!!

1:37:11 From Amanda Browder : Beautiful film !

1:37:11 From Amy Chaiklin : Thank you Mierle for this Empowering public artwork!  
1:37:15 From Maria Elena Gonzalez : I am touched deeply Mierle, thank you!

1:37:23 From Amy (they/them) Pollicino : Simple idea with big impact, very nicely done.

1:37:41 From eugenie and Tom : amazing film and project! congratulations everyone!

1:37:57 From Beth Mastick : This is such a fabulous vision that the value of people is at the center of your work is perfect

1:38:58 From Paula weiman-kelman : Thank you Mierle!! Such a moving project!!!  
Thank you!

1:39:01 From RIGAMAJIG : This work is so important, thank you for engaging labor and humanity with so much generosity and creativity

1:39:52 From David Brooks : Thank you Mierle. Your poignant humanity continues to

touch.

- 1:40:52 From deb.thefrizz@gmail.com : Thank you Mierle! Gratitude to you in your embrace of the City and in teaching us ways of healing the planet together.
- 1:41:00 From Milenka Berengolc : This work flows out of the Touch Sanitation performance. To me this is all about empathy, being in one's heart and touching people's lives, acknowledging them for keeping our city alive. Thank you so much, Mierle!
- 1:41:18 From bonnie epstein : has there been any reaction from workers?
- 1:42:20 From Suzanne Lacy : This is such a brilliant work, historically grounded in deeply important work yet so much of this moment! Bravo to Sally, Jean and Mierle and everyone at Queens Museum.
- 1:46:46 From Gillian Dyson (she/her) : I feel privileged to be with you all today. Thank you. I want to share that as a UK woman artist and academic (yes, I am in the UK right now – thanks Zoom!) your work is so significant, so important to my dialogue with performance, with class, with gender, with age, with place.
- I am interested in our perceptions of ‘dirt’ and how the current situation is shifting our relationship to who is responsible for/how our bodies, our homes and our cities are kept ‘clean’ – a political condition. Can you say something about your own physical, emotional response had to working in these shared ‘dirty conditions’ – Smell, touch, taste...Repulsion? Pleasure? You just get on with it? (like so many women do...)
- 1:54:07 From Alexandra Juhasz : As Mierle Ukeles’ work demonstrates, there is nothing more relevant than artists’ work in conversation with lived crises. It gives humans hope, inspiration, voice, and possibilities for connection.
- 1:55:11 From Maureen Reardon : Thank you for presenting this work. Elahkwa AHO 🦋
- 1:55:45 From Suzanne Lacy : Sally is saying what I many in US are thinking now - how do we establish conversations across difference - one of the important implications of Mierle’s work is the cross-class conversations that are so desperately needed at this moment.
- 1:59:05 From Nat Trotman : Thank you Mierle, Sara, and Sally (and Larissa and the rest of the team) - it was wonderful to spend my lunch break with you! Now off to meetings that will be nowhere near as engaging as your conversation. :(
- 2:00:13 From Adam Erickson [he/him] : Grateful for your deeply engaged civic practice, Mierle. It’s refreshing to think about the possibilities that artists can open up when working with their neighbors to improve community life.

- 2:00:47 From Erin Sickler : Beautiful example of creative, heartfelt people coming together to address this moment in a powerful way. Thank you to all for making this happen!
- 2:00:50 From Amanda Browder : Masks will be an icon of the pandemic. A physical barrier between humans, familiarity. Thank you for mentioning this.....such an icon of the time.
- 2:00:51 From Patricia Phillips : So vivid and memorable. Thank you for such a spirited and significant collaboration.
- 2:01:19 From Floor Grootenhuis : I am very interested to hear from the MTA how this work was experienced?
- 2:01:47 From Maureen Reardon : Ritual representative of the loss you speak of seems due for a discovery of the Possible'
- 2:01:54 From Justine Ludwig : It was the most moving experience!
- 14:02:23 From Justine Ludwig : It was the first day!
- 2:02:59 From Jill Miller UC Berkeley : Thank you, Mierle, Sally, and Sara for this wonderful time together. Mierle, your work has been an inspiration and literally pulled me through the jumble of art while parenting a child with a disability. ❤️
- 2:03:15 From Amanda Browder : It would be nice to hear from one of the workers today on this zoom meeting.
- 2:03:36 From Babette : Just being able to receive this conference live in the isolated, privacy of our homes is healing.
- 2:04:37 From Babette : It is a wake-up call that challenges us to seek ways of resisting inertia and fighting depression and hopelessness.
- 2:05:07 From Amy (they/them) Pollicino : What are the main barriers and challenges to this sort of work, either with your work back in 70's and 80's or with more contemporary projects?
- 2:06:52 From Rachel Bernstein : The glove bridge that was at the Queens museum a few years ago was so effective -- is there a way to show a photo of that?
- 2:07:13 From Sandra Bloodworth : Thanks Justine! It was really wonderful that you shared that experience. I will remember that exchange always. It captures why Arts & Design had to be part of this!

- 2:07:21 From Amanda Browder : How often do you speak about this work in the art community context with sanitation workers present in the same space?
- 2:07:26 From Elaine Angelopoulos : Mierle, What is a future dream project on maintenance and its transformation into Art you have yet to achieve?
- 2:07:33 From bonnie epstein : I am always amazed by people walking dogs who let their dogs pee all over piles of garbage waiting for pick up. Whenever I say anything to them about them they always say, but they expect this.. Really?
- 2:07:54 From Elaine Angelopoulos : That question was from Elaine A.
- 2:08:39 From Carey Clark : An observation related to collaborating and staying connected in these weird times: Zoom offers the possibility of being in an audience and seeing everyone's faces and names and "chatting" with them, too. It affords a different kind of intimacy from that of a live room. Thank you everyone for this inspiring meeting.
- 2:09:12 From Zach : Apologies for jumping into the conversation late, not sure if this was discussed...What are your thoughts about the fact that so much of American politics has become so filthy? Ready to take out the trash on January 20th?
- 2:09:30 From Suzanne Lacy : Keep going with Landing Mierle and Sara!
- 14:09:50 From Laura Raicovich : Don't give up on Landing!!! It needs to happen!!!
- 2:10:50 From Melissa Levin : Thank you for this amazing conversation, thank you Mierle, Sara, and Sally!
- 2:11:44 From Sato Yamamoto : I love the word for - forever. NY is the diversity city several people are second languages peaked including sanitize worker. I believe. May I ask why you've chosen that English word?
- 2:12:41 From Sato Yamamoto : Many second language speaker in city. I apologize my mistake. I'm Sato Yamamoto.
- 2:12:59 From Amanda Browder : Wildly Inspiring! I am so thankful for all your public time speaking about your work. So appreciative. Thank you!
- 2:13:33 From Yael Ukeles : Did you ever consider putting on a Sanitation Worker's uniform and do their work, as one of them, to personally feel how they are treated? (From Amitai - 9 years old)
- 2:13:44 From Laura Raicovich : Transforming degradation...certainly necessary for our times...

- 2:14:39 From David Brooks : Mierle, Touch Sanitation was realized through so much of your own initiative and diligence, along with the support of the MTA. Here now is an equally caring project but that has the Queens Museum, The Times Square Alliance and the MTA all helping support and disseminate this work of care. Having experienced both now, and comparing both, has anything changed in your view of what institutions' roles or obligations/abilities are with providing care to the public?
- 2:15:35 From Maureen Reardon : Do you see an overlap in participation at Fresh Mills with a ReEntry Project?
- 2:15:58 From Maureen Reardon : Fresh Kills
- 2:17:13 From Maureen Reardon : yes yes
- 2:20:24 From Suzanne Lacy : this is a super important difference between forms of performance and the beginning of social practice: not "becoming" a sanitation worker, but working alongside, or in Mierle's formation, "mirroring."
- 2:21:13 From Yael Ukeles : Thank you for answering my question.
- 2:27:12 From Laura Raicovich : Thank you everyone, have to pick up my kid at school!  
xo
- 2:28:00 From ivonne Glez : Muchas gracias por esta oportunidad!! saludos desde Querétaro Mexico
- 2:30:54 From Suzanne Lacy : Thanks all for a great conversation - would be great to access it online somehow on one or all of your websites?
- 2:31:24 From Adam Erickson [he/him] : Thanks for hosting this inspiring and generative conversation Mierle, Sara, and Sally!
- 2:31:40 From Larry Krone : Thank you!!
- 2:31:47 From William Furio b. : Hi Suzanne, a recording will be available on [the8thfloor.org/events](http://the8thfloor.org/events) by eod Monday, November 16
- 2:31:48 From Suzanne Lacy : YES to finding HOPE!!!