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CORCORAN ANNOUNCES PERFORMANCE BY IONA ROZEAL BROWN APRIL 5

****OFFICIAL NATIONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL EVENT****

Washington artist extends her renowned paintings into live performance



WASHINGTON, D.C.— On Friday, April 5 from 7-9 p.m., Washington, D.C. native Iona ROZEAL Brown will present *battle of yestermore* in a special FREE performance at the **Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design**. The piece extends the allegories of the artist's renowned paintings to her first work of live performance. Originally commissioned for the Performa 2011 festival in New York, *battle of yestermore* draws from the myth-based genres of Kabuki and Noh theater, as well as hip-hop culture and voguing, made famous in the Harlem ballroom scene of the 1960s. This will be the debut performance of *battle of yestermore* in Washington, D.C.

Admission to the performance, timed to coincide with the National Cherry Blossom Festival, is free, and pre-registration is encouraged. To register, visit <http://battleofyestermore.eventbrite.com/>.

As a native Washingtonian, Brown was first introduced to Kabuki theatre by her mother, who took her to performances at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. *battle of yestermore* features performances by voguing legends Benny Ninja, along with New York hip hop dancers Monstah Black, Beasty, Lady Beast, Monalisa, Katie, Toko and Uko, while Brown performs an original sound score accompanied by live musicians. Featuring costumes and creative kimono adaptations by costume stylist Brent Barkhaus, the performance promises to be a spectacular feast for the senses.

On Sunday, April 7, brown will take her performance to the Tidal Basin. As dusk approaches, dancer Monstah Black will lead a procession amongst the blossoms, bringing the sacred journey of brown's myth to a ceremonial close.

As an official [National Cherry Blossom Festival](http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org) partner, the Corcoran will also present a **Fly a Kite! Kids Workshop on Saturday, March 23 at the Corcoran**. For more information and to pre-register (required), visit <http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/2012/02/19/fly-a-kite-workshop/>.

In 2013, the Corcoran expanded its contemporary exhibition series *NOW at the Corcoran* to include *NOW Performance*—new and site-specific live work that addresses issues central to the local, national, and global communities of Washington, D.C. To learn more, visit www.corcoran.org/now.

battle of yestermore is presented by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities and the Corcoran Gallery of Art in conjunction with the 2013 National Cherry Blossom Festival. *battle of yestermore* is a Performa 11 Commission.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born in Washington, D.C., iona ROZEAL brown earned a B.Sc. in Kinesiological Sciences at the University of Maryland in College Park in 1991, a BFA from the San Francisco Art Institute in 1999, and in 2002, an MFA from Yale University. In 2001 she traveled to Asia and in 2005 received a grant enabling her to live for half a year as a guest artist in Japan, where she studied kabuki drama. Her work has been featured in Black Belt at the Studio Museum in Harlem, in *New Visions: Emerging Trends in African American Art* at the Smithsonian, in *a3 . . . black on both sides* at Spelman College in Atlanta, and *30 Americans: Rubell Family Collection*. She has had one-artist exhibitions around the United States, including *All Falls Down* at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Cleveland, OH. Her work is in the collections of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, VA, the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford, CT, the San Francisco Art Institute in San Francisco, CA, the Studio Museum in Harlem, NY, and the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. brown works as an artist and a D.J. in both New York City and Washington, D.C.

ABOUT NOW AT THE CORCORAN

NOW at the Corcoran is the Gallery's contemporary art program dedicated to exhibitions of work by emerging and mid-career artists, highlighting work that addresses issues central to local, national, and global communities while simultaneously responding to the collections, history, and architecture of the museum. *NOW* programming has a dynamic and integrated relationship with the Corcoran College of Art + Design. As the only visual arts college in Washington, D.C., the Corcoran College of Art + Design's active base of practicing art students and faculty make it a natural center for creating, displaying, and thinking about contemporary art.

Upcoming *NOW Performances* feature Copenhagen-based artist Mary Coble (starting April 10). For more information about *NOW Performance*, visit <http://www.corcoran.org/now-performance>. The *NOW* exhibition series continues in 2013 with Ellen Harvey's *The Alien's Guide to the Ruins of Washington, D.C.* Opening in July, the exhibition envisions the city 10,000 years in the future, as seen by visitors from another planet. An installation from D.C.-based artist Mia Feuer for *Mia Feuer: An Unkindness* premieres in November. For more information on *NOW Exhibitions*, visit <http://www.corcoran.org/now/exhibitions>.

NOW Performances

Mary Coble

Through performance, video, and installation, Mary Coble explores the limits of her own body's physical abilities while identifying and challenging social limitations and regulations. Past performances include binding her breasts continually with duct tape, inscribing the names of queer hate-crime murder victims on her body with inkless tattoos, and using flag semaphore to convey the difficulties of human connection and communication. Coble will be performing an original commission at the Corcoran. Coble's work is in the collections of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the Brooklyn Museum of Art, and the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

NOW Exhibitions

Ellen Harvey: The Alien's Guide to the Ruins of Washington, D.C.

July 3–October 6, 2013

In *The Alien's Guide to the Ruins of Washington, D.C.*, Ellen Harvey envisions the city 10,000 years in the future, as seen by visitors from another planet. Through a self-guided map of Washington's landmarks and a dramatic architectural reconstruction, *The Alien's Guide* provides visitors with an enlightening tour of the capital city's past and future. Harvey's art explores the pull of desire, the shocks of reality, and the histories embedded in ways of seeing. In work that ranges from painting and drawing to installation and public interventions, Harvey probes the gap between the imagined and actual—art's promise of transcendence versus its reality. Well-known projects include *New York Beautification Project* (1999–2001) for which she illegally “tagged” New York City streets with small, Hudson River-style landscape paintings, and *A Whitney for the Whitney* (2003), for which she laboriously repainted every work in the collection of the Whitney Museum of American Art, creating a purposefully inadequate stand-in for the museum.

Mia Feuer: An Unkindness

November 2, 2013 – February 23, 2014

Mia Feuer's sculptural installations explore the tangled relationships between urban renewal and collapse, natural fecundity and devastation. Inspired by the remains of destroyed buildings in the Middle East as well as failed infrastructure and environmental catastrophe, Feuer explores the physical and social tensions of violated spaces. She is the first Washington, D.C.-based artist to be featured in a *NOW at the Corcoran* exhibition. *An Unkindness* brings together recent work with a new project commissioned for the Gallery's Rotunda and public spaces. Inspired by several trips to the Canadian tar sands, Feuer's project is a haunting vision of nature consumed, twisted, and transformed by human need. “An unkindness,” which refers to a gathering of ravens, is one of the exhibition's central images.

ABOUT THE CORCORAN

Established in 1869, the **Corcoran Gallery of Art** was one of America's first museums of art—dedicated, in the words of founder William Wilson Corcoran, to “encouraging American genius.” Today it is Washington, D.C.'s largest nonfederal art museum, known internationally for its distinguished collection of historical and modern American art as well as contemporary art, photography, European painting, sculpture, and the decorative arts. A dynamic schedule of special exhibitions complements a range of educational programming, which together enrich the perspectives of the visiting public, support the local arts community, and encourage thoughtful interpretation of today's most compelling social issues. **The Corcoran College of Art + Design** was founded as a school of art in 1890 and stands as Washington's only four-year accredited college of art and design. The College is one of the few in the nation whose educational model includes an integral relationship with a museum, fostering the talent of the next generation of artists. For more information about the **Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design**, visit www.corcoran.org.



Hours

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Wednesday: 10 a.m.–9 p.m.

The Corcoran is closed on Monday and Tuesday.

Admission

Wednesday through Sunday: \$10 Adults; \$8 full-time students (with ID) and seniors (62+); active-duty military and children under 12 free; Corcoran members free.

Image: iona rozeal brown, *battle of yestermore*, 2011, a Performa 11 Commission. Photo Courtesy of Performa. Photo: Paula Court

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