in association with Skysaver Productions and 15 Orient Gallery

present

Views from the Miniature City

By Theodora Skipitares
Views from the Miniature City

Created by
Theodora Skipitares

Music Composed by
Virgil Moorefield

Technical Design by
Eli Langner

Puppetry by
Jane Catherine Shaw
Jessica Smith
Sasa Yung

This is a 30-minute performance followed by a meet-and-greet with the artist.

This is a standing show and the audience will be moving around an area.

We can only provide 2 chairs per show if needed, please email boxoffice@lamama.org.
The scenes are from Skipitares's seminal 1981 show, “Micropolis: 6 Portraits and a Landscape,” in which a host of figures appear within various interiors characteristic of downtown New York City. They were “discovered” and exhibited in June by Ben Morgan-Cleveland and Shelby Jackson at 15 Orient Gallery.

“A marvel...an extraordinary density of talent”

Drawing on elements of her own personal history as well as topical events of the time, these hand-crafted tableaux reflect issues of urban decline, contemporary media, its relation to individual storytelling, and the political powers of theatrical re-enactment.

In 1981, following a number of live one-person productions, she began performing alongside a troupe of 30-inch latex figurines created in her own likeness. Initially cast in supporting roles, these figures soon took over the stage, as Skipitares was drawn to the “innocence and purity” that make puppets especially effective in illuminating and critiquing social and political issues. The original plaster mold Skipitares used to make her initial self-portraits was employed to create hundreds of various figures over the course of two decades. Hence, varied as they appear, Skipitares refers to the figures populating her miniature city as her “Little Theodora’s.”
**Theodora Skipitares** is an award-winning interdisciplinary artist and theater director based in New York. Trained as a sculptor and designer, she is the author/director of more than 25 performance works, each featuring documentary texts, original music, video, and as many as 300 puppet figures. She is a resident artist at La MaMa and has worked and taught master classes in India, Vietnam, Cambodia, Korea, Iran, and Brazil. She has received grants from the NEA, NYFA, NYSCA, UNIMA, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Rockefeller Fellowship and a McKnight Playwriting Fellowship, among others. Her studio residencies include Sundance, MacDowell Colony, Bellagio, the Edward Albee Foundation the BAU Institute, and Bogliasco. Her visual work has been exhibited widely in the U.S., Europe, and Asia, most recently at the Whitney Museum and 15 Orient Gallery. Ms. Skipitares is Professor of Art and Design Education at The Pratt Institute in Brooklyn.

Virgil Moorefield (Composer) is a composer, intermedia artist, drummer and author. CD’s of his composer-led ensembles include “No Business As Usual”, published together with a DVD, “Five Ideas About the Relation of Sight and Sound (Hinterzimmer, 2013). “Things You Must Do to Get to Heaven” (Innova, 2007), “The Temperature in Hell is Over 3,000 Degrees” (Tzadik, 1997), and “Distractions on the Way to the King’s Party” (Cuneiform, 1994). The Virgil Moorefield Bicentenial Pocket Orchestra has performed throughout Europe and the U.S., including the Inventing America Festival at London’s Barbican Hall, and the Bang on a Can Marathon at Lincoln Center. His work has received support from the Rockefeller Foundation, Commissioning Music USA, and the National Endowment for the Arts, among others. Moorefield lives and works near Zurich, Switzerland.

**Jane Catherine Shaw** is a member of the Lincoln Center Directors Lab, has an MFA in Directing from Brooklyn College and is a 2023 recipient of Mabou Mines’ Ruthie Award. She has been working as a puppetry artist for over 30 years and is curator of the annual La MaMa Puppet Slam. She is currently working on The Puppet Body as Archive for Performance, which may be published in the not-too-distant future.
Jessica Smith has worked previously with Theodora Skipitares at La MaMa in *The Chairs*. Favorite credits include: Mabou Mines (*Peter and Wendy, An Epidog, Red Beads, Glass Guignol*); Basil Twist’s *Symphonie Fantastique; Flatland* with Hanne Tierney; Puck, Juliet, Inverse, Williamstown; Bread & Puppet. She is a graduate of Brown University and the Trinity/La Mama program.

Sasa Yung is studying illustration at Parsons School of Design, having graduated from La Guardia High School of the Arts. He most recently designed animations for Culture Hub’s “Fractals of Prometheus” at La MaMa and will be in “The Book of Thel” in Umbria, Italy next month.

15 Orient is a contemporary art gallery located in Brooklyn, New York. Founded in 2016, the gallery takes its name from the late 19th century Victorian townhouse whose parlour room it originally occupied. In 2020, the gallery moved to the second floor of 12 Jefferson Street; a building in Bushwick, Brooklyn of a similar style and period. Embracing its domestic setting, 15 Orient models itself on the 19th and 20th century salon; fostering an intimate, international, and cross-generational counter-public of ongoing conversation and critique. 15 Orient is owned by Shelby Jackson and, as of 2022, is co-directed with Benjamin Morgan-Cleveland (formerly co-owner of Real Fine Arts, NY).

Special Thanks to 15 Orient Gallery, Donald Eastman, Mark Tambella, Rocco Candela-Michalis.

This production was made possible in part by 15 Orient Gallery and by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.
A full program with information on this production can be found on the *Views from the Miniature City* page of the La MaMa website.

In addition you can scan the QR code Poster located in the theatre lobby for access to the digital program.
La MaMa’s historic, landmark building at 74 East 4th Street is undergoing an urgently needed complete renovation and restoration to preserve the historic façade, create building-wide ADA accessibility, and provide much needed performance, exhibition and community space for decades to come.

La MaMa, founded by Ellen Stewart in 1961, has been on east 4th Street since 1967. La MaMa embraces every person in its community and is legendary as the place where new artists of all nations, cultures, races, and identities are given opportunities. It is the place where art begins.

To learn more about the renovation, or to make a donation please visit www.lamama.org/remakeaworld
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