



CREATING ART THAT CHALLENGES PERCEPTIONS OF DISABILITY

212 Third Avenue North Minneapolis, MN 55401

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Interact Galley and Theater presents:

***UNIQUINOX:***

A Street Festival of the Imagination

And

***Mike Kramer: A Retrospective***

Outside and Inside  
**Interact Gallery**  
Saturday, September 24,  
1pm to 4pm

(Minneapolis, MN) — ***UNIQUINOX: A Street Festival of the Imagination*** will unveil Interact as a palace of wonders and celebrate the fall equinox with **an art and performance extravaganza on Saturday, September 24, from 1-4pm!** Guests will marvel at larger than life puppets, be amazed by fantastic dragons of the imagination and stand in awe as artists spin straw into gold! Award-winning hip hop and spoken word artists **Desdamona & DJ LastWord** will kick off Interact's first ever fall street festival. Following their performance will be a pageant of unparalleled curiosities and a treasure trove of side show cameos that may be once seen, but never forgotten. A final procession will usher guests inside for an Interact dance party, one of the city's best kept secrets of formidable fun!

Interact staff artist **Daniel Polhnau** is the creator and director of the event, along with **Scotty Reynolds**. Designed to be a FREE and welcoming public showing of the unique talents and highlights of Interact artists with and without disabilities, the day's activities will happen outside on Third Avenue North, between Washington Avenue and Second Street, before moving inside the Interact Gallery. In addition to a highly theatrical pageant, cameo performances will include roving minstrels, balloon creature creations, caricature drawings, magic and more!

The festival also highlights the opening of **The Mike Kramer solo exhibit in the Interact Gallery through November 18**. Kramer is a self-taught artist who joined the Interact studio in 1998. The show's retrospective of his work reflects how he derives much of his inspiration from the world of nature as he sees it around him, particularly from the Mississippi River and the life along its banks. Mike's painting style is bold in color and movement and his paintings are often large, intense studies of trees, riverfront scenes or landscapes that have left an impression on him. His abstract style is informed through walks, travel and photographs of natural settings. Kramer was recognized by VSA of Minnesota with a 2001 "Emerging Artist" award and has been featured at Trotter's Café in St. Paul, the Bloomington Art Center and other locations in the Twin Cities.

### **ABOUT DESDEMONA**

Desdamona is an international award-winning artist; who has taken her distinct lyrics, sounds, and artistic stylings to audiences from Minnesota to Hawaii to Puerto Rico and Germany; opening for artists including Wyclef Jean, GURU, Bahamadia, Zap Mama and Rhymesayers artists. She has worked in over 200 schools throughout the Midwest, conducting workshops and as artist in residence, working with more than 10,000 students in public, private and alternative schools as well as colleges and universities. Desdamona is one of the founders of B Girl Be, the first international festival, which celebrates women in Hip Hop. She was a featured performer at the We B\*Girlz Festival in Berlin, Germany (2008), the SheRock Festival (2008), and was a Minnesota Music Awards featured performer (2005). Desdamona was also awarded Best Spoken Word Artist from the MN Music Awards five consecutive years.

### **About Interact Center for the Visual and Performing Arts**

Since 1996, it has offered the community a broad-reaching vision of radical inclusion, a philosophy in which every voice and every ability come together in a continually enriching stream of human potential and creative achievement. It is the only place of its kind in the nation: a professional-level visual arts studio and theater that supports the creative growth of artists with disabilities. Spanning cultures and generations, the 100+ artists that make up Interact range in age from 22 to 92, and bring a wide diversity of cultural backgrounds, aesthetic perspectives and life experiences to their work. The 2008 Ivey Award recipient for innovation, Interact Theater has produced over two dozen original, company-created plays at home in Minneapolis, and has toured throughout the U.S. and Scandinavia, as well as to Canada, England and Australia. Interact Studio's visual artists create unique work that is affordable, and highly collectable in the contemporary arts environment.

For more information on Interact, visit [www.interactcenter.com](http://www.interactcenter.com) or call 612.339.5145.