

TOURIST BEACH

PARTICIPATORY PERFORMANCE ART RESIDENCY



PARTICIPATORY APPROACHES TO PERFORMANCE ART

CONVERSATION

Verónica Peña in conversation with

Hector Canonge, artist & curator, New York City

Tuesday, September 1, 2026 | 4:00 - 5:30 PM

The Octagon Meeting Room (STH_873_1_107)

PERFORMANCE

Wednesday, September 2, 2026 | 4:00 - 5:30 PM

The Octagon (STH_873_G_01)

Victorian College of the Arts, VCA Visual Art, The Stables

ORGANIZED BY

Verónica Peña

PhD Candidate | vpnemartine@student.unimelb.edu.au

TOURIST BEACH: Participatory Performance Art Residency

Conversation + Performance

Two-day program exploring participatory approaches to performance art

Organized by: Verónica Peña, PhD Candidate, VCA Visual Art

Guest: Hector Canonge, Artist & Curator, New York City

TOURIST BEACH: Verónica Peña in conversation with Hector Canonge

Tuesday, September 1, 2026 | 4:00–5:30pm — The Octagon Meeting Room

TOURIST BEACH: Performance by Hector Canonge and Verónica Peña

Wednesday, September 2, 2026 | 4:00–5:30pm — The Octagon

Verónica Peña organizes this program as part of her ongoing research into performance art and participation. In July 2026, Peña organized and curated **Tourist Beach**, a four-day intensive artist residency in Santa Pola, Alicante, Spain, focused on participatory performance art. **Hector Canonge**, a New York-based artist and curator, was one of the three invited artists, selected by Peña for his demonstrated trajectory and ongoing engagement with the field.

TOURIST BEACH takes the opportunity of Canonge's visit to Melbourne to bring together two interconnected elements: **a conversation and a performance**.

The **conversation** will focus on Peña's recently curated residency, *Tourist Beach*, and on the different approaches to participation and to the audience as a participant in performance art that emerged through the experience. Peña will share findings, questions, and reflections from the residency, while Canonge will contribute from his own experience as one of the invited artists. The residency began with a challenge: to consider the beach as a performative territory, and *el bañista*—the bather—as a chosen participant to be involved in the work. This starting point opened questions around how participation is invited, constructed, negotiated, and experienced within the particular social and spatial conditions of the beach.

The **performance** will be a presentation by Peña and Canonge, long-term collaborators who will perform together for the first time in six years, following a period of focused development within their separate practices. The performance proposes a new exploration of what might constitute reciprocal participation, and the possibilities that emerge when collaboration itself becomes a site of engagement.

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HECTOR CANONGE (Argentina/US) is an interdisciplinary artist based in New York City, where he received his education and professional training as a curator, cultural manager, and educator. Canonge studied Comparative Literature, Cinematography, and New Media Arts, and earned his postgraduate degree in Integrated Media Arts from the City University of New York. His artwork integrates new technologies, media art, cinematic narratives, conceptual art, relational art, and performance art. His work, supported by American and European foundations, has been presented in international exhibitions and programs at museums, art galleries, and cultural spaces in the United States, Europe, Latin America, Asia, and Africa.

Canonge's work integrates diverse forms of creative expression, exploring themes of human transformation in relation to occupied territories or a specific geography. His installations, both analog and conceptual, utilize the reappropriation of objects and the reinterpretation of their utility and function. His performance projects focus on the reconstruction of memory, gender research, and the ritualistic nature of everyday life. Through the senses, he seeks to create potential experiential nodes between the past, present, and future. His performances combine dance, film, visual and textual narrative to create immersive and often participatory experiences. His work investigates the constant transformation of the migrant, the displaced person, the foreigner, and the human experience in relation to each person's cultural, ethnic, and ancestral weight.

hectorcanonge.net @hectorcanonge

VERÓNICA PEÑA (Spain/US) is an interdisciplinary artist, independent curator, and international-community advocate based in Melbourne since 2024. Her work explores absence, separation, and the search for harmony through performance art, science, and technology. Her performance installations combine underwater submersion, visual metamorphosis, and audience participation to address global issues of migration, cross-cultural dialogue, peaceful resistance, empathy, fluidity, and women's empowerment. Peña performs and exhibits internationally. Australasia: Gasworks (AU, 2025), Tiny Fest (NZ, 2024), Performance Art Week Aotearoa (NZ, 2024). America: School of Visual Arts (NYC, 2024), Museo ExTeresa (ZonaMACO, Mexico City, 2022), Satellite Art Fair (Miami Art Week), Franklin Furnace, NARS Foundation, Smack Mellon Foundation, Queens Museum, Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics, SAIC (Visiting Artist), Times Square, Armory Show, Dumbo Arts Festival, Consulate of Spain in NY, others. Europe: Institut de Ciències del Mar/Espronceda Institut (Barcelon, 2024), Museo La Neomudéjar (Madrid), Friche La Belle De Mai (Marseille), others. Peña earned a Wellington Public Art Fund (NZ, 2024), Foundation for Contemporary Arts Grant (NYC, 2022), Creative Capital NYC Taller (2020), and Franklin Furnace Fund (2018). She published "The Presence of the Absent", was reviewed by Donald Kuspit, and on Hyperallergic. Peña curates Collective Becoming, and founded/leads Performance Art Open Call, a 32,000+ FB community. MFA, Stony Brook University, New York. PhD Candidate, Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne.

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