

TURLEY GALLERY

ლევანი

(Levan Mindiashvili)

a spell

November 10–December 17, 2023

dedicated to the loving memory of Rachel Pollack (1945–2023), who reignited my passion for “images of special intensity that act as powerful gateways to the sacred.”*

Opening reception Saturday, November 18, 3–6 PM

Artist discussion moderated by kevin gotkin, 4 PM

Closing ritual Sunday, December 17, 3–5 PM



Levani, *xvi. the tower*, 2023, (video still) digital video with sound
projected on latex screen, duration 20:20 minutes, screen 180 x 108 inches

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

a spell is a queer tale & invocation of transformation amidst the rise of oppressive powers. against the backdrop of a calm sunset reflected on the Empire State Building, filmed on an iPhone during the COVID lockdown with a nostalgic and bitter-sweet Super 8 filter as an Instagram story (May 13, 2020), and the alarms played every day of the same month at 7 PM in support of essential workers.

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Levani, *iii. the goddess*, 2023, antique saddle, deer antlers, recycled wood, aqua neon, horn with brass embellishments, stainless steel laboratory hardware and tubes, borosilicate glass separatory funnel, vinyl tubing, brass chain, transformer, LED tube lights, plexiglass, and plywood, 52 x 38.75 x 51.75 inches

a spell is an invitation to reflect on necessary endings—on a personal, collective, and planetary scale. out of this deep sense of closure, urgent changes and fresh beginnings emerge. a spell offers a space for grief and respite—inseparable companions of this journey and will culminate in a collective ritual of release at the closing of the exhibition.

a spell is cast through a projection on a latex screen and is composed of personal recordings, interviews sourced online, and sounds by Rachel Pollack, Taylor Deupree & Marcus Fischer, Arca, Clarice Lispector, Klaus Biesenbach, 7038634357, hannah baer, SOPHIE, MikeQ feat. Jay Karan, p. staff, Shygirl, Ruby Zarsky, bell hooks, Ariel Zetina, Sinéad O’Connor, Tamriko Chokhonelidze, and Alice Miller. as a continuous narrative, this assemblage gives shape to an intergenerational storyline of personal becoming(s), creating a collective body, liberated & radicalized, a body bent on defying binary systems and their heteropatriarchal nucleus.

witnessing a spell are zoomorphic hybrid deities. the sculptural bodies of various primal materials—handmade, sourced, and found—wood, stone, plasma, glass, protein, flowers, steel, to name a few. they stand for queer resilience and spiritual awakening, guiding into uncharted futures of “the full realization of the potential of being.”**

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for the summer of beautiful sunsets

for those born under the blazing sun

the summer

of the born underground

the summer of the system shutdown

of zir

under the crumbling sky

of cutting paternal roots

&

grafting into zir body of love

for the summers of beautiful sunsets

with gratitude “to all those who reached the most alarmingly unsuspected regions within me, all those prophets of the present and who have foretold me to myself.”***

with hope that this show can do a little bit the same for someone else.

a very special Thank You to Simon Gamgebeli for mastering the sound, and to David Rachveli and Papuna Dabrundashvili for their continuous support.

Levani

Lenapehoking (New York)

October 19, 2023

*Rachel Pollack, *The Shining Tribe Tarot*

**Rachel Pollack, *Transgender Magic and the Tarot*, Pro Talk series, Arts University Plymouth

***Clarice Lispector, *The Hour of the Star*

LEVANI

Levani (Levan Mindaashvili, b. Tbilisi, Georgia. ze, zir) is a transdisciplinary artist based in New York. Idea-driven and research-based, zir practice materializes as immersive installations, sculptures, neons, images, sound, collective dinners, and dance parties. Through Queer ecology, neuroscience, microbiology, cosmology, and spiritual practices, Levani attends to questions of identity & world-building, imagining shifts from binary taxonomies to radical transformations and planetary justice.

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Levani graduated with an MFA from Buenos Aires National University of Arts (2010) and a BFA from Tbilisi State Academy of Arts (2003). Ze has exhibited extensively at the institutions and venues at the Georgian National Museum, the Bronx Museum of the Arts, Socrates Sculpture Park, National Art Museum of China, EFA Project Space, BRIC Biennial, Tartu Art Museum, Yerevan Folk Arts Museum, Cuchifritos Gallery + Project Space, Artists Alliance Inc., Kunsthalle Tbilisi, Marisa Newman Projects, NARS Foundation, Silk Museum, Fridman Gallery, and more.

Levani is a recipient of the Artists Alliance Inc. LES studio residency program; Socrates Sculpture Park Fellowship; Peter S. Reed Foundation Grant; NYFA Immigrant Artist Mentoring Program fellowship; Creative Time X Summit Grant; AIM Fellowship of the Bronx Museum of the Arts; NARS Foundation Studio Residency; and the National Endowments for the Arts. Zir's work has been reviewed in publications such as *frieze*, *Art in America*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, *HYPERALLERGIC*, *The Art Newspaper*, *BOMB*, *ART PAPERS*, *ArtAsiaPacific*, *PIN-UP*, *HuffPost*, *OSMOS*, and more.

Levani's work is in the public collections of the Georgian National Museum and the Silk Museum, both in Tbilisi, Georgia, and the National Art Museum of China in Beijing.

GUEST MODERATOR

kevin gotkin

kevin gotkin (they/he) is an access ecologist, cultural organizer, artist, and scholar. they have their ph.d. from the university of pennsylvania (2018) and were a visiting assistant professor of media, culture, and communication at nyu until 2021. now, they work on economic justice for Deaf and disabled artists in their role as Artist-Organizer with Creatives Rebuild New York, an organization running a guaranteed income and employment programs for artists across so-called New York State. kevin's performance and curatorial work has been featured most recently at Lincoln Center (Cultivating Access Ecologies series, summer 2023), in nightlife shenanigans, and through their weekly newsletter Crip News.

Turley Gallery is open Friday–Sunday, 12–5 PM, and by appointment.

For press and sales inquiries, please email info@turley.gallery.

Please visit www.turley.gallery and follow us [@turleygallery](https://www.instagram.com/turleygallery) for more information.