

DC

M A G A Z I N E

(e)merge-ing Art

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In its second year, the (e)merge Art Fair weekend has already generated an international following. The fair is a wellspring for new and young artists to get noticed—discovered, even—by prominent collectors and casual admirers alike.

Here are our top picks for events taking place during (e)merge, which begins tonight with a DJ set by ESL Music's Eric Hilton of the Thievery Corporation. The \$45 advance-pay tickets for the opener are still available, and daily admission tickets Friday through Sunday are \$15.

PerformanceArt:IMPACT

Amid 10 performance-art exhibitions at this year's fair, a panel of curators and an artist will discuss the genre's influence.

The panel includes: Claire Breukel (Contemporary Art curator and Writer), Adam Budak (curator of Contemporary Art, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden), Sarah Newman (curator of contemporary art, The Corcoran Gallery of Art), and Jefferson Pinder (performance artist).

Performance art “has had a very powerful impact on the state of contemporary art,” says Lisa Gold, panel moderator and executive director of the Washington Project for the Arts. Oct. 5. 2pm. Room 1

(e)merg-ingMusic

The DC-based label ESL Music will start the fair with Thievery Corporation's Eric Hilton serving as DJ for the opening party. A cadre of local DJs and live musicians will follow each evening, says manager Sheldon Scott. “It's a DC thing. It's uplifting the locals first.” Oct. 5 and 6. 7-11pm. Pool Deck

Mathias Bengtsson

Architectural Digest honored the Danish furniture designer as a design innovator this year. Visitors can see and sit on his SPUN collection of, well, spun carbon-fiber benches placed throughout the fair. They are light enough for a child to lift, but can support an elephant, says Craig Appelbaum, Bengtsson's only U.S. representative through DC's Industry Gallery.

Student Celebration

Six art students from the Corcoran College of Art + Design will mount several sculptural installations in the hotel's underground garage with the help of exhibition-design grad students. The Corcoran is home to DC's only four-year college of art and design, and (e)merge sees this space as an showcase for the next generation.

Moby-Dick-inspired Endurance Art

Look for DC artist Andrew Wodzianski in the pool at (e)merge, floating on a coffin for 36 hours, Oct. 5-6. In “Self Portrait as Ishmael,” he's reproducing the epilogue from Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick*, as the book's narrator floats on Queequeg's casket for a day and a half, waiting to be rescued from the South Pacific. The artist's performance follows a series of multimedia portraits in which he portrays his family members as characters in the novel.

Why *Moby-Dick*, you ask? So did we. “There are so many wonderful fleshed-out oddities in this book,” Wodzianski says. “I began to identify with the narrator. ... This performance piece is very much about me in isolation, having to ponder the folly of man.”