SOMERVILLE OPEN STUDIOS 2012
@ The Temple of Infinite Love
Saturday, May 5
celebrating

The Divine Feminine

featuring the Visual Art of

Aparna Das (Pampi)
Onem Boreal (Juan M. Gutierrez)
Juhi K. Chandalia (Jasmine Quanta)

Hosted By

Pampi & Lore (Organizers), Saraswathi Jones (Performance Curator & Emcee),
Temple Deities – Adi, Andrés, Nirishka & Tany
PERFORMANCES

1:00 **Group Invocation of The Divine Feminine**
An interactive, ritual walk through The Temple of Infinite Love to raise spirits and call upon the The Divine Feminine.

1:10 **Saraswathi Jones, Sloka**
“Om Saraswathi Namasthubyam”
A traditional *sloka* (devotional song) to the Goddess of Knowledge, Music and Art.

1:20 **Melissa Huser, Movement + Alison Dagger, Flute**
"Re-telling the story of Yemanjá"
An invocation of the Yoruba *Orisha*, who is the essence of motherhood and protector of children.

1:30 **Hot Lava Mamas: Deb Picard + Natali Freed + Nargis Khestoo, Original songs**
“Journeys of a Woman: Freeing, understanding, uniting and empowering”
Bringing attention to various aspects of a woman’s journey and understanding the connectedness of all women.

1:55 **Joshua Putnam, Poetry**
“The Divine Feminine”
Clarifying and celebrating the real women who have illuminated the concept of the Divine Feminine in my life.

2:10 **Adi Rattner + Pampi + Melissa Huser + Ishani Das, Original poem, song, drum and dance**
“O Mother, Raise us up!”
Grappling the personal to the political in the study of state control of the female body and the feminine.

There was a first time for us to play the drum not only in performance but in dance. Often, we, as women, find ourselves dancing while male comrades play the drum. We wanted to reclaim the drum. During rehearsal, there was a fair amount of anxiety. We had to trust in our skills as dancers that we are natural rhythm makers. Passing the beat through the drum is an attempt to show the passing of knowledge, in this case, the beat. The shadow dancer times her movements just a second short of the lead, thereby enabling the recited word to last longer in movement. The drummer works as a shadow dancer as well.

2:30 **Martin Case + Friends, Original score on saxophone, movement**
“A Sacred Sonic Space for Meditation on The Divine Feminine”

3:00 **Question and Answer with Installation Artists**
3:30  **Jada Yvette with Seth Heidkamp + Saraswathi Jones, Original songs**  
"Play it Hot: Eros in a Cold World"  
A collection of songs that dismiss the aloof and reclaim the power of the courageously available.

3:50  **Natalie Elpek + Adi Rattner, Improvised dance**  
“The Escape”  
Recapturing the Feminine Essence by letting go of what holds her down.

4:10  **Yim Tan Wong, Poetry**  
Exploring the Divine Feminine: My Experience of and Relationship to Religion.

From the statue of a goddess, the centerpiece of my family’s temple at home, to the Greek and Roman goddesses who captured my imagination ever since they entered my world in 6th grade, how do these powerful images and their rich histories figure in the grand pantheon of deities? Which should one admire, fear, and obey? What effect do they have on the material world, the imagined world, the spiritual, and the unknown, and at whose feet should one lay the fruits and flowers, the incense and wine?

4:30  **Melissa Huser + Pampi, Improvised dance**  
“Releasing the Apsara from Stone”  
Trained in classical Indian temple dance forms, Pampi (*Bharata Natyam*) and Melissa (*Odissi*) break from the sculptural forms of their respective training into improvised movement, testing the bounds of formal dance education and the desire for liberated movements.

4:50  **Saraswathi Jones, Original songs**  
“An Indian-American Goddess Laments”  
The Goddess incarnate and emcee for the afternoon gives her offerings in song. Some more divine than others.

I attempt to bring *Sarawati* – the Hindu Goddess of knowledge, music and art – into 21st Century America by embodying her in form and spirit. Through this musical *avatara* (Goddess in human form), I will explore issues of identity, politics, heartache, and the occasional bad hair day even goddesses experience.

5:15  **Singer Mali, Original songs**  
Songstress Singer Mali, of Boston-based art rock collective *Jaggery*, shares original solo pieces.

5:35  **Pampi, Improvised dance**  
“Yama-Yami (half-female half-male deity): Re-interpreting Gendered Temple Stories in Dance”  
In improvised movement, Pampi, as Yama-Yami, recounts the love story between the feminine and masculine right within.

5:45  **The Four Elements, Improvised Contemporary Chamber Renaissance Funk Music**  
Improvising to the Divine Feminine
INSTALLATIONS

C. M. Judge + Paula Rendino Zaentz, video performance
"Mater Panis (Mother Bread)"
A meditative video installation which explores the question, “Where were the women the night of the Last Supper?”
Set in the Renaissance, Mater Panis probes this question through narrative: Mary as mother mourns, sacrifices, cleanses, creates and makes bread, ending with the offering of bread and wine. In keeping with her Jewish tradition, lighting of the candles, the prayer over the challah punctuates the connection of Mary during the night of the Last Supper to Christians and Jews alike. As she makes the bread and mourns, she intuitively knows her son will die and makes the ultimate sacrifice of a mother. She is a reflection of the Great Mother, the Divine Feminine and Theotokos, Mother of All, creator and destroyer; womb and tomb to her children.

Nargis Khestoo, live beading
"Durga Divine Deity"
Live beading of the Goddess Durga on her lion.
There will be beads and sequins on an already-painted tapestry, which is exquisite and colorful. The art piece will already be partially completed, and you will see me continue the intricate craft as I carefully place thousands of beads to adorn her with attention, admiration, and my love. I do not take credit for the painting, but the beading is my work. This project will total approximately 300 hours to completion. I will also be wearing my beaded dress, which took 140 hours to make!
Durga is the epitome of female strength, compassion, and independence. She is the original Goddess from which all other Gods came in the Hindu religion. Even in extreme hardship, she does not lose her courage or sense of humor.

Natalie Elpek
Fertility Goddesses

Jacob Kasell, deck installation
“Deck Her Halls Divine”
Extending the art installation to the outside

Seth Heidkamp, sound installation
The connection every person has with the Divine Feminine is the event of their creation. The sounds created for this piece are meant to evoke the experience of a newly forming consciousness through its gentle, rippling sounds that surround the listener.
Aparna Das (Pampi)

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Pampi is the digital and mixed media performance artist and poet @ thirdeyefell.com. While her forte is in pen and ink, she enjoys experimenting with video, poetry, movement and installation. In her work she tends to engage issues of identity, gender, sexuality and the body politic.

She believes The Divine Feminine is right within every person. As is The Divine Masculine. Both need to be valued and in balance within.

Installation:

“The snake ate the moon: a graphic poem” – digital drawings and poetry
“I carry Devi within Me” – acrylic and dye on floor-to-ceiling fabric
"Pop Fertility Goddess series: tracing and molding ancient curves new" – clay + digital prints
“Domestic?” – acrylic on canvas

Performances:

“Yama-Yami (half-female half-male deity): Re-interpreting Gendered Temple Stories in Dance”
“O Mother, Raise us up!” – Grappling the personal to the political in the study of state control of the female body and the feminine.
“Releasing the Apsara from Stone” – improvised dance
“A Sacred Sonic Space for Meditation on The Divine Feminine” – movement
Onem Boreal

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Born in Monterrey, Nuevo León México in 1983, Onem is an artist with particular interest in surrealism, fantasy, comics and science fiction, adopting elements of his own Mexican culture to support him in his artistic expression.

From an early age, he showed interest in art and drawing, creating his first comic strip at only four years old.

During adolescence and adulthood, Onem sought to find his true passion, searching for his ideal profession, exploring various programs of study in Universities in Mexico and abroad, all linked in some way to art. He has studied industrial design, graphic design and architecture; taken classes in music and sculpture; completed a course in design; and his studies continue. In part, this education gives him the knowledge necessary to develop professionally as a multidisciplinary artist, in both analog and digital realms. However, he believes that real knowledge and technical skills are gained through practice and one's own apprenticeship.

Onem has held many jobs during his professional experience. The following are several of note: Working in Asymptote in New York with the Architect Hanni Rashid, as industrial and graphic designer; at La Universidad Isthmus Panama studying how to create emergency dwellings; and with the Danish firm KBH Arkitekter, remodeling metro stations. The most important of his projects has been as cultural promoter in his hometown of Monterrey, where he founded an art collective in 2008 and built his own gallery, Awake co., with his own hands to help exhibit the artists of his community.

Among his accomplishments, he has been chosen to exhibit his work in biennials, has won important prizes such as the State Youth Prize in Monterrey, Mexico, and today his art appears on the covers of magazines, newspapers and blogs with increasing frequency. His first solo exposition was just in 2009, and currently he is studying for his Master’s Program in Digital Arts and Instructional Design at the Harvard Extension School.

Onem says he is a product of the fusion of his society and his individual experiences, a funnel of his own expression of the perception of his reality.

“La Tribu” – Series of nine masks (acrylic and paper on wood)
“Devine Feminine Series” – Four floor-to-ceiling paintings (acrylic, dye and marker on cloth)
Juhi K. Chandalia (Jasmine Quanta)

www.jasminequanta.com

Juhi is a scientist, engineer, and artist. She enjoys working with acrylics, pen and ink, and watercolors, and her art reflects her technical training and Indian heritage. Juhi’s inspiration ... blank walls, her own space and:

Masks
She had blue skin,
And so did he.
He kept it hid
And so did she.
They searched for blue
Their whole life through,
Then passed right by–
And never knew.

-Shel Silverstein

“This poem and the accompanying sketch caught me and I began drawing in pen and ink, first a reproduction of the Silverstein sketch and then a continuation of the narrative. With pen and ink, I try to capture a moment, a fleeting feeling – wearing a beautiful dress and twirling around in joy, a moment of hesitation, sadness when something important crumbles away, humor in the incongruous. My work in acrylics is about bright colors and personal metaphors.”
Adi Rattner

adimd26@mail.com

Adi comes with a background in classical ballet and contemporary dance. She currently works to empower and connect women with health resources with patients from all over the world in a community health center in Boston. This fall, Adi will begin to study medicine and continue to do the same!

Alison Dagger

www.linkedin.com/pub/alison-dagger/23/222/860

Alison Dagger grew up in Woodstock Vermont surrounded by the beauty of the Green Mountains and the creative atmosphere that accompanies such places. Alison has been studying classical flute for over 15 years and holds a Bachelor of Arts in music performance from Goucher College; professors include Michael Zsoldos, Heidi Baxter, David LaVorgna, Lisa Weiss, and Elisa Koehler.

During college Alison studied a number of different musical disciplines and participated in Chamber Orchestra, various ensembles, and performed three solo recitals. It was during her career at Goucher when she first started learning and experimenting with World Music, Improvisation, and Traditional Irish Folk music.

Now Alison is a regular guest artist on the Jeff Jam Sing Song Show with Jeff Kauppi and recently participated in an experimental improvisation workshop for dancers and musicians as part of the Rhythm Of Change Festival at Brown University.

She is honored to be a part of the Devine Feminine 2012 showcase.
The Four Elements

Improvised Contemporary Chamber Renaissance Funk Music

www.facebook.com/pages/Four-Elements/144378968959310

The Four Elements are Jo Ball (bass), Chris Baum (violin), Paul Erlich (acoustic guitar) and Garo Papazian (doumbek). Earth, Water, Air and Fire combine to produce soul-altering, mind-stretching sounds. These techies/artists/thinkers never cease to astound with their virtuosity.

Hot Lava Mamas

Folk/Rock and Funky Rock

www.facebook.com/pages/Hot-Lava-Mamas/167525993309684
www.talifreed.com
www.reverbnation.com/debpicard
http://www.etsy.com/shop/Nargi

Performing Today: Deb Picard, Natali Freed, Nargis Khestoo

Deb Picard is a songwriter and a singer who has loved music for as long as she can remember and played various instruments before writing her first song on the guitar in her mid 20’s. She’s currently in the process of recording an EP of original songs and hopes to complete it this year. Her songs often carry themes of individual freedom and growth, and the understanding of human nature. She is thrilled to be performing as a part of the Divine Feminine Open Studio project.

Natali Freed is a singer/songwriter who writes in reflection on her life and about things that inspire her and that she finds important. She performs as part of the Hot Lava Mamas and as a backing Singer/Fiddler for a handful of musicians, and thoroughly enjoys all of it, and loves performing at new and repeated venues. She is currently wrapping up a full-length album.

Nargis Khestoo is a multi-faceted artist whose talents include beadwork, rapping / poetry and dancing. She can be found beading the goddess today. She has a passion for the creative arts and is also a personal trainer. She also has a passion for her dependent, Bebe Jean (woof woof!!)!
Ishani Das

ishanidas.wordpress.com

Ishani is a professional performing artist trained in theater arts at CalArt. She enjoys dance, painting, voice and song.

Jacob Kasell

www.facebook.com/daddyyak

Jacob expresses his creativity through cooking, photography, building furniture and such. He has been known to paint and play music, but with less success than he would like.
Jada Yvette
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Jada is a student of Hindustani music in the Dhrupad tradition of sitar, and of the Saraswathi Jones School of Ukulele. She plays with Blow, Saraswathi Jones, and her cats.

Joshua Putnam
http://www.freerlove.org

Joshua is a 46-year old Jewish American male from a family with a long history of activism. He has been writing poetry for 30 years. Since his first writings, Joshua's work has been informed by his sense that "alienation is the number one killer"; that we are all, as individuals and as a society, dangerously out of touch. He tries to write, work, play, heal, nurture, live and create in ways that allow for reconnection, re-integration and renaissance. Joshua believes that every voice is a unique part of the universal harmony.

"The Moon is Always Female" - Marge Piercy
Loreto P. Ansaldo

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Loreto has been organizing events that celebrate art and life since age 15 and intends never to stop. Currently, she is working to launch on TheActivistCalendar.org, an online calendar of local social justice events that will encourage collaboration among organizations and connect people to groups that bring world change.

Martin Case

www.MartinCaseMusic.Com

Martin Case is a composer, producer, and performing musician. With his company, MartinCaseMusic, Martin creates music for dance, film and other multi-media experiences, both live and in the studio. In creating music for dance, Martin’s client list includes the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, Urbanity Dance, the Mark Morris Dance Group, MIT, Harvard, Boston Ballet, and the Paul Taylor Dance Company. The nature of this work has taken Martin to the Middle East, West Africa, South America, Europe, and Asia.
Melissa Huser

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Melissa has been learning Odissi, an Indian classical dance, from Mouli Pal since 2003. She has collaborated with the Brooklyn-based band Prince Rama by performing with them live and in a recent music video. She is interested in exploring dance within classical, modern, and contemporary contexts, recently in the depictions of divine figures across cultures. As a Brazilian-American who has been residing in Boston for the last fifteen years, Melissa hopes to collaborate with teachers and facilitators to celebrate the city’s cultural diversity by hosting a youth talent show in the near future.

Nargis Khestoo

http://www.etsy.com/shop/Nargi

Nargis is an artist, dancer, poet, and personal trainer. She loves to put thousands of colorful beads on exotic painted fabric with images from mother nature. Nargis makes dresses, purses, wallets, and hair accessories. She finds the process meditative and relaxing as well as exciting. Durga is her first tapestry, how exciting!

See also Hot Lava Mamas
Natalie Elpek

natalieclaudio@hotmail.com

Natalie Elpek is a research technician who has lived in Boston for past five years. In her free time she loves working with clay, baking, scrap booking and dancing. She has been studying classical ballet for 9 months. Currently, she is at the development stage of starting a business that makes personalized ornaments, decorations and hand crafted arts.

Paula Rendino Zaentz & C. M. Judge

www.paularendino.com
www.cmjudge.com
www.femlink.org

Paula Rendino Zaentz has been widely shown in solo exhibitions, installations and group shows in Boston, New York and other regional art centers. Her art career started with large scale archetypical phosphorescent painting and sculpture experienced in environments of changing light and sound. Her interest in dowsing and healing arts brought her to her present medium of black and white photography. She aims to capture energy and emotion, while exploring mudras, (which is Sanskrit word for any action that seals in strength) juxtaposed with archetypical symbolism in film-noir-like lighting.

Intermedia artist C. M. Judge creates drawings, paintings, sculptures, stained glass and video installations at Moongate Studio in Fitchburg where she offers studio classes and creativity workshops for artists. Her work illuminates the poetic interconnections of the natural and spiritual often creating spaces that celebrate the confluences of the body, mind and spirit. Judge has been exhibited widely in the US and abroad. She holds a Master of Science in Visual Studies from M.I.T. and is a recipient of numerous grants that support collaborative public art projects including a NEA Challenge America grant. Recent projects include co-curating, FemLink: the international video collage (www.femlink.org), with French, video artist, Véronique Sapin featuring 149 women video artists from 64 countries and the public art project, HELLO and WELCOME, for Dulles International Airport serving Metropolitan Washington, D.C.

Paula Rendino Zaentz and C.M. Judge have collaborated on Veils of Anima, a digital piece mapping the soul’s journey, as well as, On Mine Hands, On Thine Hands, a video installation and photo montage piece exploring all humanity’s role in bloodshed. Mater Panis is their third collaboration.
Saraswathi Jones

Saraswathi Jones sprang from the cranial chamber of the fierce warrior Goddess Durga after she complained of a headache one chilly February afternoon in Kolkata, West Bengal. She made her way to America - land of opportunity - as a young Goddess, where she cultivated an interest in gender and post-colonial politics in graduate school. She currently resides in Boston, where she spends her time trying to connect back to her divine roots by writing pop-rock songs, and attending free film screenings at MIT.

Photo Credit: Sudarshan Chakravarthy

Seth Heidkamp

I was a good little breather
A fantastic feeler
When my mamma got sick, so sick
I knew how to heal her
I had talent; I had the will
I knew how to win
When daddy threw me in the water
I knew how to swim

Seth is always trying to get the biggest sound possible out of a guitar.

Waves in Detroit: http://www.facebook.com/WavesInDetroit
Blown: http://www.reverbnation.com/blownboston/
Miscellaneous: http://setheidkamp.com/music/
Singer Mali

[Image 320x553 to 540x695]

[72x705]Singer Mali

http://www.jaggery.org

Singer Mali is the front-woman for the Boston torture chamber pop band, Jaggery. Mali trained her voice through the expressive arts modality of Voice Movement Therapy. She produces the performance series Org, usually out of Cloud Club, the South End artist’s co-op she calls home, and sometimes at public venues such as Oberon.

Yim Tan Wong

Yim Tan Wong’s first full-length poetry collection has been a Finalist for Four Way Book’s Levis Prize and the Kundiman Poetry Prize. She received a Master of Fine Arts degree at Hollins University, where she studied Poetry and Fiction and was awarded a Teaching Fellowship as well The Gertrude Claytor Poetry Prize from the Academy of American Poets. Her poems have appeared or are forthcoming in Spillway, Tidal Basin Review, The Portland Review, Mascara Literary Review (Australia), Off the Coast, Crab Orchard Review, Crab Creek Review, MARGIE, and Michigan Quarterly Review, among other journals. Yim Tan is currently working on a collection of poems in conversation with the paintings of René Magritte, the writings of Ludwig Wittgenstein, the metaphysics of Arthur Schopenhauer, and whomever else she meets along the way.
Additional Divine Thanks to –

Welcome Priest/esses

Adi Rattner
Alison Dagger
Collin Panahi
Melissa Huser
Natali Freed
Natalie Elpek
Tany Horgan

The Divine Emily

*Signature Cocktail for the Divine Feminine*

Created for this event by Emily J. of Drink

Shake 0.5 oz honey, 0.5 oz simple syrup and 1 oz whiskey. Strain into glass and top with 1.5 oz mead (or spicy beer).

** Why did these ingredients inspire us today? It is believed that a woman discovered wine many centuries ago. Honey collection, another ancient activity, was probably also performed by women, as the painting below suggests. Mead, or honey wine, in turn has always been the “nectar of the gods.” We certainly think that the ancient goddesses of wine Paget, Gestin, Siduri and Renen-utet are smiling down on us today! **

Photographers

Jacob Kasell
Kavita
Marion LaMark
Onem Boreal
Umang Kumar

Videographers

Kavita
Onem Boreal
Umang Kumar

Life-Saver

Paul

Woman honey seeker depicted on 8000-year-old cave painting.
At Arafia Caves in Spain.