

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[v]vital[ny] presents:

**HINGE FIGURES**  
**a sculptural sound installation**

**McCarren Park, Williamsburg Brooklyn**  
**Inside the park @ N12 and Bedford entrance**

**September 2 - 18, 2011**  
***Opening September 2, 2011 from 6 - 8pm in the park.***

Three communities. Three doors. Ninety years in sound.

vitalny is pleased to present *Hinge Figures*, a public installation that explores the complex, layered histories of Williamsburg, Greenpoint and Bushwick through sculpture – doors, rescued from junk stores in the community – and sound – found sounds, historical recordings and original compositions. The piece will be installed at the North 12<sup>th</sup> and Bedford Ave entrance to McCarren Park, the symbolic cross-roads of these three neighborhoods, from September 2 – 18, 2011.

Too often, we only know our neighbors by their door. Doors are the ultimate public expression of our private identity. In their peeling paint or new fixtures doors tell the histories of their tenants. Who lives/d behind the doors of your neighborhood? What is their story? How many hands have graced your own doorknob, before it was yours?

As often, we only know our neighbors through sound. “Ring” a doorbell and trigger an embedded sound module which plays a sound characterization of a segment of that door’s potential history, representing a century of home-making in many languages. Open the mailbox, chose a postcard, and ‘send’ us your own experiences of living in your neighborhood. These postcards will be collected and included in an ongoing dialogue on our website. Visit the website to browse an extensive historical timeline of North Brooklyn from 1850, and to learn about the historical recordings used in the piece.

Hinge Figures is about cycles. And it is about our responsibility to the places we inhabit and to the people we share space with. It's about communities in transition, and the shared moments that make them continuous. It's about private experiences, and their public manifestations. It looks back at the century of home-making which allows us to live here today, but also looks forward to the cycles of migration, population and home-making that will follow us.

At the core of *Hinge Figures* is the acknowledgment that, although at first North Brooklyn’s communities may appear insular, they all share the necessary, mundane activity of opening a door. By highlighting this common point and inviting participants to experience this routine activity in an acutely public way, we hope to serve as a catalyst for more meaningful interactions, sparking new dialogue amongst residents, generating new understanding of and pride in one’s complex community, and encouraging a shift in the perception of ‘the other’. We hope too that the serendipitous act of engaging with strangers, and of hearing music and sound characterizations in several languages, will inspire individuals to begin to tell their own stories, and to listen to the stories of others.

The success of the installation depends on its interactivity; individuals are encouraged to approach and engage with the piece directly, experiencing the journey of their community as they journey through the park. This engagement is at once intimate and public, just as communities change on both individual and collective levels.

*Hinge Figures is sponsored, in part, by the Greater New York Arts Development Fund of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, administered by the Brooklyn Arts Council, Inc (BAC). The NYC Department of Parks and Recreation and the Open Space Alliance for North Brooklyn provided additional support.*

vitalny (vɪ - t'a - ʃnə or vih-TAHL-neh) Origin: In Polish, 'witalny' is 'vital'. Vital New York. v vitalny is a Brooklyn-based collective comprised of artists from Poland, Argentina and the United States, which formally came together in April 2010 with the guidance of NYU Professor and Critical Art Ensemble-founding member Steven Kurtz. It is the evolving project of Tusia Dabrowska and Clara Inés Schuhmacher. v vitalny looks to tactical media as a means to share stories about love, language and transnationality.

For more information, please email v vitalny at [v.vital.ny@gmail.com](mailto:v.vital.ny@gmail.com), or consult [www.vvitalny.com](http://www.vvitalny.com).

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