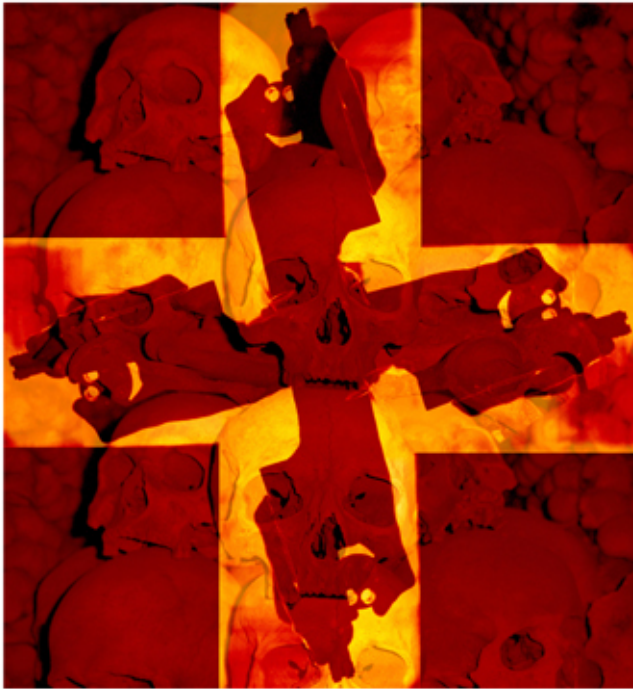




Howl! Happening Presents  
In association with Some Serious Business

## LYDIA LUNCH

### *So Real It Hurts*



***Lydia Lunch traffics in the reality behind the reality. Think of the Situationists, or Henry Miller, or Duchamp's final masterpiece, Etant Donn  ....Like Duchamp, Lunch has created that secret, eroto-violent universe spied through the keyhole to which she alone holds the key. —Jerry Stahl***

Howl! Happening is pleased to present **Lydia Lunch *So Real It Hurts***, an assembly of photographs, ephemera, posters, live and streaming events and video, and the X-rated, scene-of-the-crime installation, *You Are Not Safe In Your Own Home*. Lydia Lunch *So Real It Hurts* opens Friday, May 8, 2015, 6–8 PM with special opening night performance and runs through June 5, 2015. Howl! Happening, 6 East 1st Street (between 2nd & Bowery) in the East Village. [Howl! Happening](http://www.happening.howlarts.org) is an Arturo Vega project. Visit [www.happening.howlarts.org](http://www.happening.howlarts.org).

Lydia Lunch is passionate, confrontational and bold. Whether attacking the patriarchy and their pornographic war mongering, turning the sexual into the political or whispering a love song to the broken hearted, her fierce energy and rapid fire delivery lend testament to her warrior nature. She has released too many musical projects

to tally, has toured for decades, curated dozens of shows, written half a dozen books, and simply refuses to shut up. “I describe myself as a confrontationalist,” she says. “I prefer not to be pigeon holed by generic labels like feminist and I have never considered myself ‘punk.’

***The artist/musician Lydia Lunch has always obsessively searched for the love that's never lost and the pain that's always found. From the music of Teenage Jesus and the Jerks, Eight-Eyed Spy, and Queen of Siam, to her fiery anticorporate polemics, to her textual, filmic, and musical collaborations with Richard Kern, Kim Gordon of Sonic Youth, Exene Cervenкова of X, and Auntie Christ, her work has been about the relentlessness of that quest. —Barbara Kruger***

The exhibition surveys the sweep of her career from her days as a teen-age runaway and instigator of No Wave to the present. Included in the show are ephemera, photos, posters and letters, including some of her most notorious collaborators in music, spoken word, and literature; the photographic series, *The War Is Never Over*; and performances and live events by Lydia and friends that showcase her astoundingly prolific work and continuing influence with a multi-generational cast of characters and creators.

“I describe myself as a confrontationalist,” she says. “I prefer not to be pigeon holed by generic labels like feminist and I have never considered myself ‘punk.’ My main object in making art is to rattle the cage, to wake people up, wake *myself* up—to confront apathy and the forces that oppress us and conspire to keep us down.” [I have a job to do, a meaning, a reason, goal, and a purpose I was put on this earth for: And that's to turn pressure into pleasure.” \[use or not? Too much? I was looked for “pleasure” somewhere\]](#)

## **The War is Never Over**

*This is for the ghosts of*

*Guernica, Belchite, Badajoz, El Mazuco, Jarama, Monte Pelato, Cape Palos, Mataro.*

*This is for the dead and dying*

*This is for the war torn and battle fatigued*

*For the widows and orphans of warriors*

*This is for the warriors . . .*

*This is for the ghosts of Fallujah, Anbar Province, Abu Ghraib, Baquba, Guantanamo, Gaza, Beirut, Bagdad, Kabul, Jalalabad, Islamabad, Katmandu, Mogadishu, Darfur, Sierra Leone*

*This is for the freedom fighters, the insurgents, the rebels and rabble-rousers*

*and for every individual who revolts against tyranny and oppression . . .*

—Lydia Lunch, from *Ghosts of Spain* monologue, *Dust and Shadows*.

When spoken word was not enough, when ranting about women and children being the first casualties of conflict became just too much, Lydia turned to photography to express her ongoing obsession with war. In *Blow Me Away*, soldiers at the Gare de Lyon in Paris form the backdrop for a self portrait; actor Ben Foster appears to cradle a child in the desolate remains of Belchite (where 6000 men, women, and children were killed by Franco's troops); Michael Pitt and Asia Argento are battle-fatigued youth in *Home is Where the Hurt Is*, while in photos like *Ghost Girl*, *Collateral Damage*, and *Retribution* Lydia superimposes images of soldiers and guns over the faces of men, women, and children like Dylan Sprouse to make her point.

## **You Are Not Safe in Your Own Home**

***Imagine a fight club for fucking. An atmosphere that stinks of wet sex. A room that is littered with the detritus of need, soiled by the stigma of black lust. —Jack Sargeant***

This is the bedroom from hell. A total environment, a violent collision of damaged body parts and tortured emotions battling against each other in the condensed space of a finite time. Admittance to the XXX-rated

## NEWS ALERT

Howl! Happening: An Arturo Vega Project  
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installation is limited.

### Special Events

Now Wave Now: Panelists Carlo McCormick, Kembra Pfahler, Bibbe Hansen, and Bob Bert contextualize the ///// and rawness of No Wave Now.

Jerry Stahl Reading from OG Dad

Lydia Lunch *Dust and Shadows*

Live streaming 24/7, the Howl! Channel presents life, unadulterated. You might stumble upon nocturnal emissions with Lydia and a crew of friends at 3 AM or have *Lunch with Lunch*. Unscheduled and anarchic, the Howl! Channel is Andy Warhol's *Empire*, meets Cage's chance operations, with a dash of public access's strangely canny take on humanity. Sign up for special insider announcements at [www.happening.howlarts.org](http://www.happening.howlarts.org).

In honor of the exhibition, Howl! Happening and Never Records will publish 8 one-of-a-kind vinyl records of previously unpublished spoken word performances. A catalogue including writing by Carlo McCormick, Jerry Stahl, Barbara Kruger, Thurston Moore, and Michelle Grabner accompanies the show.

From [Cinderella's Big Score: Women of the Punk and Indie Underground](#) by Maria Raha:

"The myriad ways in which Lunch intrepidly expresses herself and educates her audiences are impressive; she never settles on one mode of expression for wont with trying it from another angle, through another medium. She has never identified herself as only a musician; music has worked as a backdrop for the words she writes, speaks, screams, rattles and rants. What has been unflagging throughout her career, and is perhaps more significant, is the level of intimacy she is willing to allow; the brutal, confrontational, powerful way she asserts herself, all while appearing somehow vulnerable and naked. "

### About Howl! Arts

#### About Some Serious Business