

NEWS ALERT

Howl! Happening: an Arturo Vega Project
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Howl! Happening: An Arturo Vega Project

CELEBRATES ITS 2ND YEAR WITH THE OPENING OF ARTURO VEGA *EMPIRE*

—Special Events Mark Howl! Birthday Weekend and Other Vega Exhibition Happenings—



Opening Reception: Thursday, March 23 / 6 PM

Empire: An Arturo Vega Retrospective

It's our birthday and to celebrate, Howl! Happening presents a retrospective by the artist who inspired the gallery and so many younger creators and seekers in the neighborhood: Arturo Vega. Concurrent with the exhibition, curators, critics, and dear friends deepen understanding of his life and work, including a penetrating look at the cultural and political climate in Mexico that nurtured the visual and conceptual framework played out in the studio paintings featured in *Empire* and his work with the Ramones. ***Empire runs through April 20, 2017.*** A fully illustrated catalog with essays by Dan Cameron, Jade Dellinger, Anthony Haden-Guest, Adam Lehrer, and Carlo McCormick will be published. ALL EVENTS ARE FREE.

Friday, March 24, 2017 / 7 PM

Sandra Schulman and Monte A. Melnick Presentation About Arturo Vega's Art and Life With the Ramones

In conjunction with *Empire*, the Arturo Vega retrospective, two of Arturo's closest friends illuminate his life and work. Sandra Hale Schulman, an arts writer, curator and film producer, will contextualize his fine art—speaking about the origins, iconography, and evolution of his work, and his influences from Pop Art to The Pictures Generation. Melnick will be talking about his more than 20 years working with the Ramones, and the range and relevance of Vega's ("the fifth Ramone") contributions to the band.

Schulman co-founded two galleries in New York City in the 80s: Spiritual America (backed by Vega) and 303 Gallery. Her catalog on Spiritual America was released in the spring of 2015. She curated art shows for galleries in New York; Joshua Tree; Los Angeles; Washington, D.C.; and Southampton. Through her company, Slink Productions, she produced a tribute CD and documentary on Native folk singer Peter La Farge. She released a music video featuring Floyd Westerman, and John Densmore (of The Doors) and a documentary on Karen Dalton. She is currently an arts columnist for *WPB Magazine*, writes for HamptonsArtHub.com and works as a consultant on art and film projects. Her work has appeared in *Billboard*, *Variety*, *Rolling Stone*, *Ocean Drive*, *Country Music Magazine*, *The New York Daily News*, *News From Indian Country*, and *Entertainment Weekly*. Part Cherokee, she has become a spokesperson for Native American causes on radio and television.

Monte A. Melnick was tour manager for the Ramones for 20 years (1976-1996) and traveled extensively with the band as worldwide coordinator. Melnick is the author of the book *On the Road with the Ramones*, which has been published in seven languages. He is currently 3D Theater & Audio Visual Supervisor for the New York Hall of Science, featuring the largest collection of hands-on science exhibits in NYC. He was manager of the premier performing arts center Queens Theatre in the Park, and a member of the rock group Thirty Days Out, with albums on Reprise/Warner Brothers Records.

Sunday, March 26, 2017 / 5 PM

[Arturo Vega Above and Beyond](#)

Panel Discussion With Special Guests Jade Dellinger, Carlo McCormick, Anthony Haden-Guest and Adam Lehrer

A critical and personal discussion of Vega's life and work, this panel of experts brings years of cumulative experience with the worlds of creativity and music that fed his artistic production.

[Carlo McCormick](#) is a cultural critic, curator, and author of numerous books, monographs and catalogs on contemporary art and artists. He is the senior editor of *Paper* magazine, and brings his acute intelligence to bear, contextualizing Arturo's work in art, music and design with the tenor of the times.

[Jade Dellinger](#), director of the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery at Florida SouthWestern State College since 2013, has also worked closely on curatorial projects and exhibitions for the Tampa Museum of Art and the University of South Florida Contemporary Art Museum. He has contributed to numerous exhibition catalogs and publications. Dellinger previously guest-curated *Play What You Like: Fluxus, Music & More* at Howl! and presented *Empire: An Arturo Vega Retrospective* at the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery before the exhibition traveled to New York.

[Anthony Haden-Guest](#) is an art critic, writer, cartoonist, poet, and social commentator who brings his wit and wisdom in assessing Arturo's role within the culture of the times. He has written for *Vanity Fair*, *The New Yorker*, *The New York Observer*, and *The Sunday Times* (among other publications) and is the author of *The Last Party: Studio 54, Disco, and the*

Culture of the Night, published by William Morrow & Co., and *True Colors: The Real Life of the Art World*, published by Grove Atlantic.

[Adam Lehrer](#) is an artist (working with photography and mixed media) and culture critic. He's the editor-at-large of Los Angeles art and culture magazine *Autre* and has contributed photography, art and fashion coverage to publications like *i-D*, *SSENSE*, *Forbes* and *VICE*. In his art practice, he combines journalistic snapshots with staged conceptual photography, often placing his own images alongside others sourced from the Internet, fashion magazines, pornography and film stills—blurring the line between his day-to-day existence and media consumption.

Thursday, April 13, 2017

[Dan Cameron Mexico City, Circa 1970](#)

Slideshow and Lecture

Curator and critic Dan Cameron brings to life the atmosphere and crucible of Vega's early life. With a kind of uncanny compass for the zeitgeist, as a young gay man from a tiny Mexican village, Vega was drawn to Mexico City's most avant-garde cultural circles. He plugged into the remarkable nascent counterculture, including the youth-driven movement known as *La Onda*, which spawned magazines and graphic artists and forged strong cultural bonds between student activists, fans of rock music, free love advocates, and the emerging widespread use of marijuana. This art/rock nexus became the central theme of Arturo's subsequent life and work. Cameron goes on to outline other key influences in his early artistic career and the Mexican government's violent repression that served as a catalyst in propelling Vega and other cultural figures to leave in a kind of mass exodus, mostly to New York and Los Angeles.

Friday, April 14, 2017

[Paul Tschinkel Alan Vega An Artist's Story](#)

In 1979, filmmaker/artist Paul Tschinkel videotaped one of Suicide's earliest performances at Max's Kansas City in New York. The film starts with a thrilling performance of *Ghost Rider* and concludes with Vega performing at CBGB in 1983.

In 2004, Alan spoke to Tschinkel frankly and movingly about his roots and life as an artist and performer. The film reveals Alan's story as he tells it—his early interest in art and studies with such luminaries as Burgoyne Diller and Ad Reinhardt at Brooklyn College, and his eventual contact with Martin Rev and their journey to gut-wrenching musical performances as electropunk duo Suicide.

Conceived in the early 70s by Vega and Rev, the band was initially associated with the avant-punk movement of the New York music scene that spawned such groups as Blondie, The Velvet Underground, the Ramones, the New York Dolls, the Heartbreakers, and many others. They quickly became a phenomenon—unclassifiable and against the grain of the increasingly "pop" sensibility of punk. Suicide's hypnotic, pulsing synth and cheap drum machine sound, combined with Vega's eerie, echoing vocals in primal rockabilly style, captured the feeling of a crumbling city...the ominous looks...the sound of the microphone slamming against the face....

Initially trashed by the music press, their confrontational live performances are the stuff of legend. Recognized for unique and revolutionary style, the album *Suicide* (1977) was recently named by *Rolling Stone* as one of the 500 best albums of all times.

Empire Closing Party: Thursday, Apr 20, 2017



Screening of Amon Focus' Arturo Vega, The Last Interview, 2013

In a particularly poignant and personal interview done just a month before his death, Amon Focus captures Arturo on film reminiscing about key moments and influences in his life, including growing up in Mexico City; discovering rock and roll when he was 8 years old; having music as his first artistic inspiration; making trips to San Francisco in 1965 and the Summer of Love (1967); moving to New York in '71; working his first job at Orange Julius in Times Square; renting his loft on 2nd Street at Bowery for \$300; having artistic inspirations including a love of words, supermarket window ads and the Eisenhower silver dollar, and painting the subsequent *Insult* and *Supermarket* series; meeting Dee Dee Ramone; and the evolution of his life, work, and friendship as the "Fifth Ramone."

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6 East First Street (between Bowery and Second Avenue)
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Gallery Hours: Wed–Sun, 11 AM–6 PM

About Howl! Happening

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