

UTOPIAS



Sana sana mi corazon con flores / Heal heal my heart with flowers, Blanka Amezcua. Photo by Hector Amezcua.

Art in Odd Places 2026: UTOPIAS

SENSE | DREAM | BODY | CARE | CONNECT

45+ local, national, and international artists' visual & performance public projects along on 14th Street, NYC

September 26 & 27, 12-5pm

Art in Odd Places (AiOP) 2026: UTOPIAS will take place on September 26 & 27, 2026, and is curated by Arantxa Araujo & Pancho López. For the twenty-first edition of the annual public visual and performance art festival on 14th Street in Manhattan, 45+ featured visual and performance artists will present work that asks to consider the city not as it is, but as it could be. Transforming 14th Street across two days, Saturday's performances will span 1st to 3rd Avenues, and Sunday's between 6th and 10th Avenues.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:

Across *UTOPIAS*, artists turn 14th Street into a space for testing how we might live, move, and imagine differently together. In *A Scene for a Utopia*, Belén Robeda will construct an unexpected beach scene in the middle of the city, inviting passersby to pause, inhabit it, and temporarily transform an ordinary sidewalk into a shared space of leisure and collective imagination. Christopher Kaczmarek's *Local Utopias: Conditions of Compliance* will divide the sidewalk into zones governed by contradictory instructions—asking pedestrians to move faster or slower, remain silent or speak loudly, keep their distance or take up space—and revealing the tensions embedded in any attempt to define an “ideal” public realm.



(Left) Belén Robeda, *A Scene for a Utopia* (Right) Christopher Kaczmarek, *Local Utopias: Conditions of Compliance*. Both images courtesy of the artists.

Other projects look toward the body, history, and the uncertain future. In *Tezcatl: Obsidian Meditations*, Emilio Rojas will lead performers walking backward through Manhattan while carrying polished obsidian mirrors, navigating the city through its reflection and drawing on Mexica understandings of time in which the unknown future lies behind us. Blanka Amezkua, in *Sana sana mi corazón con flores / Heal, Heal My Heart with Flowers*, will wear a floral costume and headpiece inspired by Chinelos while inviting participants to make silk flowers and exchange knowledge about Indigenous Nuhua medicinal plants and healing traditions documented in the sixteenth-century De la Cruz–Badiano Codex.



Tezcatl: *Obsidian Mediations*, Emilio Rojas. Image by: C Carletta

Participation and speculation also become tools for confronting the worlds we have already created. In Nima Nikakhlagh's *The Archive of Possibility*, visitors will sit across from the artist and contribute visions of a city, life, or freedom not yet realized, which will accumulate inside a transparent public archive. Meanwhile, Erin Amlicke with Frontera Flotante—Lillian White and Gloria María Chong Yparraguirre— will bring *Mr. Plastique* to 14th Street: an interactive drag performance featuring a dapper figure clad in blue, white, and plastic that traces the unsettling journey of polyethylene from industrial material into the environment—and ultimately into our bodies. Together, these works approach utopia not as a distant destination, but as something provisional, embodied, contested, and collectively imagined.



(Left) Nima Nikakhlagh, *The Archive of Possibility*, Image courtesy of the artist (Right) Erin Amlicke with Frontera Flotante: Lillian White, Gloria María Chong Yparraguirre, *Mr. Plastique*. Image by Carroll Andrewsk.

In its 21st (odd) year, **AiOP 2026: UTOPIAS** is dedicated to **[Franklin Furnace's](#)** 50th Anniversary.

Participating Artists, Collectives, collaborators:

Abeer Khader | EMBARCAÇÃO-ENTIDADE: Authors & performers: Alejandro Chellet x Brittany Maton, Performers: Stacey Anderson, Maira Duarte, Tanasha G, Catherine Chen, Cristina Bartley Dominguez | Alicia Grullón | Ana De Orbegoso, Julia Justo, Jessica Alazraki, Salomé Egas, Giana González | Ariel Kleinberg | Belén Robeda | Blanka Amezkua | Christopher Kaczmarek | Cynthia Reynolds | Day de Dada Performance Art Collective (Viv de Dada, Mary Campbell, Barbara Lubliner, Douglas LaTourette, Milenka Berengolc, Eileen Ramos, Tamara Wyndham, Joel Cohen, Lydia Grey, Mark Semanchik) | Édi Longwave (with Deirdre Macleod) | Elizabeth Velazquez | Emilio Rojas | ENTUNG LIU | Erin Amlicke with Frontera Flotante: Lillian White, Gloria María Chong Yparraguirre | erin devine | Gabbing With Gays (Zach Rothman-Hicks & Andre Knights) | Geraldo Zamproni | Gerardo Morantes | GOODW.Y.N. | Irene Chan | Kristin Hillery | La Pocha Nostra with Christen Clifford | LVJ Performance Co.: Lead Choreographer, Director and Performer: Larissa Velez-Jackson, Co-choreographer, Performer: Jillian Sweeney | leonardo gonzalez | Maria Eugenia Chellet | Martha Wilson | Naivy Pérez | NATACHA VOLIAKOVSKY | Nicolás Barrera Martínez | Nicolás Dumit Estévez | Raful Espejo Ovalles Morel Atrib | Nima Nikakhlagh | Noah Ortega | Nora Almeida | Ólido Erréve & Lechedevirgen Trimegisto | Paris Cullen | Polina Porras Sivolobova | Qween Amor | Raquel Du Toit, Ryan Maloney | Sara Kostic | Simone Schiefer | Susana Gonzalez-Revilla | Tilted Axes: Music for Mobile Electric Guitars | Thomas Stempka | Thorn (Colleen Marie Foley & Erin Ethridge) | Yali Romagoza | Yapci Ramos | Yasmeen Abdallah, C.Y. Chen and Amanda Wu

**Polina Porras Sivolobova's "Mi Pedazo de Casa" is made possible partly by the Artist Support Grant from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support from the Office of the Governor and the New York Legislature. FY2026.*

JOIN THE CONVERSATION:

UTOPIAS Panel on Friday, September 25, 6–7:30 PM, at Jackson Square Park at the intersection of 8th Avenue, Greenwich Avenue, and Horatio Street, near West 13th Street in Greenwich Village.

The AiOP 2026: UTOPIAS team and Thinkers in Residence invite you to imagine, question, disagree, and contribute your own ideas about what it takes to build a better world together. We will talk about invitations, inclusion, generosity, and what happens when there is not enough room for every good idea. If utopia is something we make together, how do we make more room for one another along the way?

Curators

Arantxa Araujo is a queer Mexican performance artist, curator, cultural organizer, and art administrator moving between Mexico City and New York. Their work draws from neuroscience, ritual, and collective imagination. They create participatory experiences that invite strangers into moments of reflection, vulnerability, and pause.

Pancho López studied Communication Sciences at UNAM's Faculty of Political and Social Sciences, and for eleven years served as Head of the Department of Performance and Contemporary Art at Museo Universitario del Chopo. Over the years, he has coordinated festivals such as *Performagia*, *Transmuted*, and *Extra!*, and participated in performance art festivals and exhibitions across Latin America, Europe, Canada, and the United States.

Curatorial Assistants

Juliana Maurer is an Appalachian designer and community organizer currently based in Brooklyn. Their background is in graphic design, social practice, and participatory art, and a lot of Juliana's work is rooted in thinking about how art can build stronger forms of community and collective care. They are especially passionate about creating community infrastructure for mutual aid, using art as a way to support and sustain direct action, and working with movement-based zines, artist books, and abolitionist imaginaries.

Valentina Zamora is a Colombian curator, artist, and arts researcher interested in memory, migration, archives, and community-based artistic practices. Working primarily with time-based media, expanded cinema, and experimental video, her practice explores how contemporary art can create spaces for connection, storytelling, and collective reflection. Her artistic and curatorial work frequently engages with Latin American and Caribbean diasporas, examining questions of belonging, displacement, and cultural memory. She has worked with artists, galleries, festivals, and independent art initiatives in Colombia and the United States.

Founder and Director

Ed Woodham is a queer elder conceptist, curator, and educator based in Manhattan, originally from Atlanta, Georgia, where *Art in Odd Places* began.

Producer

Katya Usvitsky is an artist, graphic designer, and curator. She is deeply entrenched in the artist-run community and co-directs the LA space of Tiger Strikes Asteroid, and co-founded noysky projects, an exhibition space and studio in Hollywood, and High Beams, a series of nomadic pop-up exhibitions.

For additional members of the team, visit utopias.artinoddplaces.org/about

Art in Odd Places (AiOP) is an annual festival that presents visual and performance art in public spaces along 14th Street in Manhattan, NYC, from Avenue C to the Hudson River each October. Active in New York City since 2005, AiOP aims to stretch the boundaries of communication in the public realm by presenting artworks in all disciplines outside the confines of traditional public space regulations. Using 14th Street as a laboratory, this project continues AiOP's work to locate cracks in public space policies and to inspire the popular imagination for new possibilities and engagement with civic space nationally & globally. *Art in Odd Places* is fiscally sponsored by [GOH Productions](#).

For more information and high-resolution images, contact: aiopnyc@gmail.com

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Art in Odd Places is a program of [GOH Productions](#), a nonprofit organization, and is supported, in part, by public funds from New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, and New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

