

**PERFORMANCE IN CRISIS**

by **Papo Colo**, 2009

**New York City**

First of all let me tell you that there is no reason to worry!  
In extraordinary times an extreme reaction is necessary!  
Art for art's sake is as false as every god that humans have invented.

Uncertain times are the space we live in and the moment for artists to take justice into their hands,  
by performing the extraordinary events that we are witnessing.  
There is not art for art itself because in art there is always a reason and a purpose to represent some  
thing.

We are in a living chaos,  
a crisis that is beyond the economic, environmental, racist, military and religious fanatics.  
We have a spiritual disaster ... a catastrophe in our souls.  
God is a missing person and the local administrators are corrupt.  
The artist performance is what narrates these events and illuminates metaphors.  
The amusement of art is change for the play of substance.

Heart and the ears are the first organs that humans build in the womb.  
Our first actions are to breath and hear.  
Language and life begins with sound and hearing, the first auto performance.  
So drama is within us, some like to express it in public some don't.  
It is the medium of expression that is available to everyone,  
the most common, the most effective because it is done by example, symbolizing freedom of  
expression.  
Artists that perform don't need a specific skill to do it; actors, musicians, dancers are performance  
mediums that require days of rehearsals in a precise space and years of practicing their skill.  
Performance artists are every day persons without those skills but with the will and intelligence to  
perform an action.  
Performances of this other medium of the "art world" are  
usually for cultural entertainment or intellectual gymnastics.  
Amusement, decoration or narcissistic self-promotion are semi valid options but in this era of CRISIS  
artists that perform are saying something,  
surpassing the usual expectation.  
They are more than justified for extreme actions  
in a culture en route for transformation.

**Text for the exhibition at Exit Art NY**

**PERFORMANCE IN CRISIS**

**10/02/09 – 12/19/09**