

An Oil Opera

There is a moment when peeling citrus, when your thumb first punctures the rind, that you may receive a great burst of oil coating your hands. You may pause to quietly wipe your hands clean or you may proceed to peel back the rind exposing the fruit - letting the skin fill your nail beds. Both paths surround you momentarily with sweet, fresh aromas.

An Oil Opera, a performance by Aida Ramirez and Gabriel Chalfin-Piney, seeks to illustrate moments of sweet, freshness in the heat of a summer's day through moments of intimate gestures and shared care. Performed at the site of Kayla Taylor and Gabriel Chalfin-Piney's installation, *I like your earring*, there is an overarching reminder that items hold stories and smells hold memories.

"We realize, in recent days, that this shared experience of the moment when you cut into a fruit and the mist flutters towards your face is not accessible or appropriate. We hope that you will have your own experience with bursting scents in the comfort of your home"

Art Gift (edition of 30)

Left Ear Solid Perfume - lemon verbena, lavender, eucalyptus, beeswax and jojoba oil

Right Ear Solid Perfume - grapefruit, basil, copaiba, beeswax and jojoba oil

Score

- Gathering/Installation
- *"Find a comfortable place to settle and sit" (maintain 10 foot distance from neighbors)*
- *"There is a moment when peeling citrus, when your thumb first punctures the rind, that you may receive a great burst of oil coating your hands. You may pause to quietly wipe your hands clean or you may proceed to peel back the rind exposing the fruit - letting the skin fill your nail beds. Both paths surround you momentarily with sweet, fresh aromas."*
- A sits at the center of the structure/unmasks
- G puts on A's blue mask
- A gets up, walks to building side to retrieve ice bucket/G sits and un.masks
- A returns and places ice bucket at the side of the structure
- A puts on G's blue mask
- A and G check and adjust each other's masks
- A and G spray each other's faces with mist/wipe faces using hand cloths
- A and G put on gloves
- *"Remain seated to receive your thaw"*
- *"Raise your hand when you are done thawing"*
- G picks up ice bucket and tongs/begins passing out ice to audience
- After several receive their ice, A approaches people with the sprays:

- *“Would you like to be misted with lemon or grapefruit ?”*
- *“Lemon is meant to be especially invigorating”*
- *“Grapefruit is an excellent stress reliever”*
- When all of the ice is passed out and when people begin to raise their hands, A returns scented spray to the base of the structure
- *“Remain seated to receive your fruit”*
- A passes out the frozen grapefruits
- After several receive their grapefruit, G approaches people with the sprays:
 - *“Would you like to be misted with lemon or grapefruit?”*
 - *“Lemon is meant to be especially invigorating”*
 - *“Grapefruit is an excellent stress reliever”*
- When about half of the audience is done with peeling their fruit G and A both return to the structure, return their objects to the base of the structure
- G and A take off their gloves
- G pulls perfume from back pocket and anoints A’s neck using middle/index/and thumb
- Gabriel returns perfume to back pocket
- A pulls perfume from back pocket and anoints G’s neck using middle/index/and thumb
- A returns perfume to back pocket
- G and A bow
- *“Thank you for coming to An Oil Opera, please feel free to make your way to this box to retrieve your own perfumes. Feel free to choose between Left Ear and Right Ear.”*
- *“We realize, in recent days, that this shared experience of the moment when you cut into a fruit and the mist flutters towards your face is not accessible or appropriate. We hope that you will have your own experience with bursting scents in the comfort of your home”*