

***Living Room (NS 00), 2017***

2-channel HD video (color, sound); 36:00 mins.

Projection wall, sheet of drywall, stripped couch frame, plastic couch cover, LED strip lighting, dirt, foil-wrapped hard candy, urethane resin, topping soil, epoxy resin, off-white carpet, wall with exposed studs

Courtesy of the artist, commissioned by the New Museum  
Department of Education and Public Engagement

**\*Most of the film does not include dialogue; ambient sounds play throughout. Where dialogue does occur, we have transcribed it with brief scene descriptions.**

**15:14**

***[Marat (Economic Toxicity)\*, taking a bath with a newspaper, and the Patient Patient (Persistent Micro-aggressions, sitting by the tub, share a slice of chocolate cake and have a conversation]***

**Patient Patient (Persistent Micro-aggressions):** Greetings.

**Marat (Economic Toxicity):** I needed an infusion.

**Patient Patient:** Ah. Something like this? *[offers cake]*

**Marat:** Sure. Look at this. Did they have this at the cafeteria?

**Patient Patient:** The café.

**Marat:** The café? Umm, this is delicious.

\*A reference to Jean-Paul Marat, a French revolutionary leader whose assassination in his bathtub was depicted in Jacques-Louis David's 1793 painting *The Death of Marat*.

**Patient Patient:** Oh yeah, I need to try some.

**Marat:** Yeah. Do you like the frosting part? Or no? Too much sugar?

**Patient Patient:** *[takes a bite]* Cake is the reason to come here.

**Marat:** That café, or cafeteria, or commissary...or...

**Patient Patient:** Commissary and cafeteria...kinda...they have that similar feel of why I don't call it a cafeteria.

**Marat:** Why?

**Patient Patient:** Commissary, cafeteria, feel like very...somehow institutional places of eating...ya know.

**Marat:** Yeah, somewhat of maybe like...some form of terror and some form of communalism.

**Patient Patient:** Mhm.

**Marat:** Like, both at the same time. Right?

**Patient Patient:** Yeah, yeah. Exactly.

*[A piece of newspaper falls from the wall above the bathtub]*

**Marat:** Oh no, my collage.

**Patient Patient:** Lemme help...

**Marat:** No, I got it...I got it

**Patient Patient:** Alright.

**Marat:** It was this piece. That was... *[reading newspaper]* recent sale was 135 million and then recent leasing was 72 dollars per square foot. Just so you know. But, you know...I just want to know what everything costs right now. So I can keep track.

*[Marat affixes the newspaper back to the wall]*

**Marat:** Café...

**Patient Patient:** Café, feels like, it feels, I feel like, I feel a...

**Marat:** French?

**Patient Patient:** Quasi...exactly, ya know...I feel like I'm in a big open courtyard...and smoking cigarettes...and...

**Marat:** Air.

**Patient Patient:** Ya know.

**Marat:** It's just air...it denotes air...that's all.

**Patient Patient:** Um hmm.

**Marat:** Instead of stale human smells of horribleness.

**Patient Patient:** Um hm...yeah. Um...I could be here for that smell sometimes. You know, like there's...that like I could be into it. It's like I can...there's...the *nast*. That can really...like...be fulfilling.

*[Patient Patient feeds Marat a bite of cake]*

**Patient Patient:** Ooh...see, watch out for that cake in the bath...that...

**Marat:** Oh. But...I...I've become much dirtier while I've been sitting in here, doing this project.

**Patient Patient:** [laughs]

**Patient Patient:** Who...who's making words...these days?

**Marat:** That is a good...I thought they were gonna tell us that here. In the post-semantic age that we're in...you know, where words don't mean anything.

**Patient Patient:** Oh yeah, is that where we're at now?

**Marat:** Yeah. I mean...do words deliver? Do they? Are they delivering...well are they?

*[More newspaper peels off the wall. Marat and Patient Patient attempt to reaffix it.]*

**Marat:** When it dries, the collage falls apart.

**Patient Patient:** Ahhh. You got to keep it wet to keep it up.

**Marat:** Yeah.

**Patient Patient:** Is Webster...the only one who decides who the fuck...how? How are words?

**Marat:** Oxford.

**Patient Patient:** Oxford, yup.

**Marat:** Colonial powers deciding what words mean.

**Patient Patient:** Right, right, right.

**Marat:** Which ones enter “the canon.” What are we left with?

**Patient Patient:** For sure.

**Marat:** After all this. The stale human smell of just a bunch of fucking shit.

**Patient Patient:** Um hm.

**Marat:** Yeah. I feel like I need my sunglasses.

**Patient Patient:** Mmm.

**Marat:** That dictionary...because it does not apply...to actual...semantics or semiotics.

**Patient Patient:** Mmyeah.

**Marat:** It’s all made up.

**Patient Patient:** Right. Speaking of, I hear you’re the person to come to for titles.

**Marat:** That’s what I was going to need my glasses for.

**Patient Patient:** Ah, yeah. Ok.

**Marat:** What...what is it we need? So for a party...hhuh...I mean, that is just so much harder. What's celebratory, or what should we be celebrating? Even if it's not positive.

**Patient Patient:** Mhm, yesss.

**Marat:** 'The human smell of horribleness:' a lesbian dance party. It's...too wordy.

**Patient Patient:** Yeah.

**Marat:** Gathering... 'the gathering.'

**Patient Patient:** The gath...that sounds hella positive.

**Marat:** We could call the dance party 'the protest.' And then people would feel like they're doing something.

**Patient Patient:** [laughs]

**Marat:** We have to make something that lasts through the ages, that's gonna last through borders, it's gonna penetrate borders, ya know it's gonna like...it's gonna...in 5,000 years, whatever is happening on the planet, they will know our phrase for that party.

**Patient Patient:** Um hm um hm.

**Marat:** That's what I'm challenged by.

**Patient Patient:** Shit!

**Marat:** Do we need to rely on the patriarchy to make it last through the ages? Or, are we going to not need that anymore?

**Patient Patient:** Yeah, exactly. How do we, not use it, to get it to last through the ages? But...it seems so insistent.

**Marat:** Sparkle's too positive.

**Patient Patient:** Oh, it is, but ya know, it made me think of something, with the post...that we're post...we're post everything, except we're not post-sparkling water.

**Marat:** We're not post-sparking water?

**Patient Patient:** We're not post-sparkling water. That's what she said, we're not post-sparkling water.

**Marat:** I'm missing some good performance art being in this institution, or asylum, or whatever they're calling it at this point.

**Patient Patient:** [laughing] I sneak out. Cause ya know...Sometimes maybe we're post-, post-words or I'm post-listening.

**Marat:** [laughs]

**Patient Patient:** Ah, but, I didn't catch...

**Marat:** I was gonna say post-remembering, but post-listening is better.

**Patient Patient:** That's –

**Marat:** Post-, post-, post-remembering...

**Patient Patient:** Cause you can't remember if it was never there.

**Marat:** We have to pinpoint this.

**Patient Patient:** Post-pleasure.

**Marat:** ‘The post-pleasure party’? People are going to be craving pleasure now. Now that we’re really heading into the, you know...abyss. ‘Omnicide?’ Do you think that’s too much of a downer?

**Patient Patient:** Omnicide?

**Marat:** The killing of everything.

**Patient Patient:** Oh fuck. No that’s good. I’m more here for human-cide, than I am omnicide, though.

**Marat:** Yeah.

**Patient Patient:** Not everything needs to go.

**Marat:** Post-humanity! ‘The post-humanity party.’

**Patient Patient:** I like that.

*[Patient Patient and Marat interlock fingers]*

**Marat:** I feel like that’s it.

**Patient Patient:** I think we have something there.

**Marat:** I feel like that’s it.

**Patient Patient:** I’m gonna have a celebratory foot bath.

**Marat:** There are some Epsom salts in here.



**Patient Patient:** Oh, maybe...how should I? [*Sits on the edge of the tub and puts their feet in the water*] Ooh, thank you. God damn, I'm so grateful for this hot water right now.

**Marat:** How about 'thank you?' As the...

**Patient Patient:** Thank you as the party name? Aww...People get gift bags? Nobody gives out gift bags.

**Marat:** Oh, we should definitely give out gift bags.

**Patient Patient:** They could just be those 'thank you' plastic bags from the store. Language on a bag. We're for sure shit not post-that. Everyone's got a goddamn phrase on a bag.

**Marat:** When will money just be, not worth anything?

**Patient Patient:** Um hm.

**Marat:** Just waiting.

**Patient Patient:** Yeah. Exactly.

*[Marat removes the hospital gown tied around their hair]*

**Patient Patient:** Oh, yeah. Free.

**Marat:** Yeah, I just need to redo my hairs.

**Patient Patient:** Um hm. Um hm.

**Marat:** I don't know how this thing...I don't have a shower cap.

**Patient Patient:** Well actually, we could call it a shower cap, but if it doesn't do the work of a shower cap...is it?

**Marat:** I don't know that the thing has to perform the way that it's described anymore.

**Patient Patient:** Right, okay.

**Marat:** I think those days are fucking over.

**Patient Patient:** Uhuh...yep.

**Marat:** Just sayin.

**Patient Patient:** Yeah, no. I think you're right. I think we're definitely post-that.

**Patient Patient:** ...do other things, I guess that's just lying. Lying is effective, it always...or can be.

**Marat:** 'Lies.' Uh...the club.

**Disembodied chorus [singing]:** *Lies...*

**Patient Patient:** Lies.

**Marat:** It's so much better!

**Patient Patient:** Um-hm.

*[Marat and Patient Patient interlock their fingers, smiling]*

**Marat:** Yes! Yes, yes. It's so futuristic. It's what everyone needs right now to get out of this reality. I'm telling you, this is it. Beautiful.

**Patient Patient:** Aw.

**Marat:** I know. See, do you see the tears running down my eye...my face?

*[Marat splashes water on their face]*

**Patient Patient:** [laughs]

**Marat:** The tears. We're gonna have to start saving our tears, too.

**Patient Patient:** Ooh, that might be a great way to go.

**29:55**

[A group of people, wearing headlamps and black T-shirts emblazoned with fragmented slogans, dance together in a dark basement.]

[Ambient, pulsing music plays over the scene. The score contains intermittent, repeating vocalizations, including the phrases "Give me that one," "Give me those lies," "Lies," and "We're ready"]



## **CREDITS**

### **ACTING AGENTS**

#### **STAIRWELL / MOUTH TO ANUS (Weight-Bearing)**

Mx. Manning: keyon gaskin

Pregnant Backpacker: Savannah Knoop

#### **DWARF PLANETS (celestial bodies)**

Makemake: Winter Collins

Eris: Mia Cenholt-Haulund

Pluto: Elias Delate

#### **ANIMALIA ANIMA / THE PSYCHE**

Fish (out of water): Winter Collins

The Fly (swatter): Mia Cenholt-Haulund

Bird of Prey: Elias Delate

#### **BATHROOM / KIDNEYS (Detox Tub Talks)**

Marat (Economic Toxicity): A.L. Steiner

Patient Patient (Persistent Micro-aggressions): keyon gaskin

#### **DEATH OF MARAT**

Marat: A.L. Steiner

#### **BASEMENT / UTERUS (The Movement)**

Her: Nathaniel Flagg

Or Bust: Arianna Gil

No: Jahmal Golden

Again: NIC Kay

Her: Savannah Knoop

Or Bust: Monica Mirabile

Again: Marbles Jumbo Radio

No: Tsige Tafesse

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**REFERENCES**

Jacques-Louis David, *The Death of Marat*, 1793

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