

**News  
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**The Wind Up Series of After-Hours Events Presents  
Performance by Mykki Blanco  
On November 20**

Jewish Museum

**In celebration of the Exhibition *From the Margins:  
Lee Krasner | Norman Lewis, 1945-1952***

New York, NY – The Jewish Museum presents the next event in its popular series of after hours events, **The Wind Up**. Featuring art, live music, activities, and an open bar, **The Wind Up** will take place on Thursday, November 20 from 8pm to 11pm. Focused on the exhibition *From the Margins: Lee Krasner | Norman Lewis, 1945-1952*, the evening features a performance by rapper, performance artist, and poet Mykki Blanco. Multi-gendered and genre defying, Blanco brings hip-hop, electronica, and punk into surprising juxtaposition with high-fashion drag and queer performance. Known for testing the boundaries of hip-hop, in which queer artists remain largely tokenized despite their enormous influence, Blanco exemplifies the way in which the cultural margin is often the most innovative site of artistic production. Similarly, artists Lee Krasner and Norman Lewis innovated “from the margins” of Abstract Expressionism during the 1940s and 50s, and as a woman and an African American, respectively, were often overlooked in mainstream criticism of the time.

The event will also feature a DJ set by P. Morris, guided tours of *From the Margins*, spin art t-shirt making, an abstract painting station, and an open bar with beer and wine.

**Tickets for the November 20 event are \$13 in advance; \$18 day of event.** For further information, the public may call 212.423.3337. Tickets for this program can be purchased online at <http://www.thejewishmuseum.org/thewindup>. The Jewish Museum is located at Fifth Avenue and 92<sup>nd</sup> Street, Manhattan.

Mykki Blanco is the stage name of American poet and performing artist Michael David Quattlebaum Jr. Quattlebaum is an interdisciplinary artist who uses contemporary hip hop as a performance medium to express his larger ideas. In 2011 he published his first book of poems “From the Silence of Duchamp to the Noise of Boys”. He also began performing two new projects, performing industrial rock under the name No Fear and glamorous, ghetto-fabulous riot grrrl rap under the name Mykki Blanco. In 2012, Mykki made her grand entrance with the Mykki Blanco and the Mutant Angels EP, featuring cuts like “Join My Militia (Nas Gave Me a Perm)” and “Gay Dog.” Later in 2012, Blanco dropped the seminal “Cosmic Angel Mixtape.” Dubbed “From Teenage Runaway to Hip Hop Queen” in a *New York Times* profile, Mykki Blanco was solidified as a young artist whose

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creative work with hip hop had just begun. In 2013 Blanco released her second work "Betty Rubble: The Initiation" EP. Chris Kelly, in his review for FACT, commented, "For those that have watched and listened to Mykki Blanco's hypercharged evolution, 'Betty Rubble: The Initiation' isn't just a culmination of what she's done — it's a sign of what's to come." Hip Hop Giant XXL wrote, "Blanco's strength is that he sounds like no one else in rap, and his presentation is still more innovative than ever." Blanco will release a new album on October 21, 2014 entitled "Gay Dog Food U.S.A."

P. Morris released his first mixtape, *Debut*, in April, and he has quickly become known for the experimental soundscape of his collaborations with cutting-edge hip-hop and R&B artists such as Le1f and Kelela.

The Jewish Museum is presenting *From the Margins: Lee Krasner | Norman Lewis, 1945-1952* through February 1, 2015. This survey features key 1940s and 1950s works by two powerful painters during a transformative period in American art when both artists were experimenting with innovative approaches joining abstraction and culturally-specific references. Lee Krasner (1908-1984) and Norman Lewis (1909-1979) were major contributors to Abstract Expressionism but as a woman and as an African American, respectively, they were often overlooked in mainstream criticism of the time. The work of Krasner and Lewis has intriguing formal similarities while reflecting each artist's personal background. Krasner's Little Image pictures relate to her childhood upbringing and study of Hebrew, and are today considered significant contributions to Abstract Expressionism. Lewis's Little Figure paintings reference African American cultural heritage, including urban life, Harlem, jazz, and textiles. Beneath the formal elegance of Lewis's paintings runs a characteristically subtle inflection of his lifelong social activism and humanitarian concerns. Both artists' work of this formative period embodied the all-over approach characteristic of the style. Yet, rather than the bold, gestural strokes of their peers they focused on smaller, repeated images with self-reflective cultural references. Their paintings—brimming with gesture, image, and incident—are dynamic yet modest in scale compared with the canvases of many of their contemporaries.

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### **About The Jewish Museum**

Located on Museum Mile at Fifth Avenue and 92nd Street, the Jewish Museum is one of the world's preeminent institutions devoted to



exploring art and Jewish culture from ancient to contemporary, offering intellectually engaging, educational, and provocative exhibitions and programs for people of all ages and backgrounds. The Museum was established in 1904, when Judge Mayer Sulzberger donated 26 ceremonial objects to The Jewish Theological Seminary as the core of a museum collection. Today, the Museum maintains a collection of over 30,000 works of art, artifacts, and broadcast media reflecting global Jewish identity, and presents a diverse schedule of internationally acclaimed temporary exhibitions. For general information, visit the Museum's website at <http://www.thejewishmuseum.org> or call 212.423.3200.

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