SCHREBER LIVE!

Reading, Writing, Art, Film and Performance inspired by Memoirs of My Nervous Illness, by Daniel Paul Schreber, the most widely-known first-person account of madness

May 20, 2017, 6-8 p.m.
Jefferson Market Library
425 6th Ave, New York, NY (between W 9th and W 10th St.)

Presented by Das Unbehagen / ISPS-US / Hearing Voices Network NYC
Free and Open to the General Public

PROGRAM:

Introduction and Orientation by Event Organizers
Marie Brown and Evan Malater

Visual Art
Michael Vannoy Adams

Schreber and the Transitive Property of Equality
A series of five watercolor pencil paintings illustrating a variety of psychotic-poetic processes from Daniel Paul Schreber's Memoirs of My Nervous Illness. The series as a whole is entitled "Schreber and the Transitive Property of Equality" — an allusion to Schreber's "trans" experience of being transformed or "transformed" into a woman, and to the equality intrinsic to that process.

Jonathan J. Detrich
In Celebration of Father Schreber
Schreber's early development as a subject of his father's child-rearing techniques will be considered, along with questions about whether appreciating Schreber requires vilifying his caretakers.

Sarah Grass
Unmanned Drawings
Grass's drawings echo the surrealist's fascination with psychoanalysis and automatism, a method through which they believed one could access their unconscious mind. Wandering intuitively by pen, Grass inhabits a sheet of paper as though taking a stroll — the contents of her mind reacting to physical and virtual spaces that surround her. Actively listening and marking, she works in a territory that is both interior and exterior. Streams of consciousness synchronize and contradict in an organic network of signs that both tempt and prevent analysis.

Laura Anne Walker
The Psyche War
Walker's artwork represents various points of her journey on her path towards mental health.

Visual Art / lecture

Dance / Performance
Julie Forthingham
Fleeting Improvised Movement
This dance performance comprises "fleeting-improvised-movement" that spontaneously arises as if in response to "nerve contact" with fellow humans or the divine rays of God. These brief improvisations will reflect the projector's rays of light. Not its function as metaphor, or abstraction. The 12th century Syrian Sufi, Sohravardi, is notable precisely for the articulation of light as a prison — however mystical or mystifying — aspects of light in the shadow of Schreber's Memoirs. Through a smattering of Sufi texts — from the Islamic Mystic Shihaboddin Sohravardi — and an experimental 16mm piece, centered on film's capacity to both catch and throw light, I hope to substantiate Schreber's account, which is to say, to emphasize the fact of light's substance, not its function as metaphor, or abstraction. The 12th century Syrian Sufi, Sohravardi, is notable precisely for his articulation of light as an intelligence, manifesting a variety of forms, colors, and initiations. 16mm, given the mechanism of film, exhibits the material quality of light's existence, the chemicals or even "nerves" essential to the production of an image, and the psychological — however mystical or mystifying — aspects of this production. Additionally, the character of judge Schreber will be represented in costume, encouraging spectators to play with the film itself, to refract and reflect the projector's rays of light.

Felix Bernstein, Patricia Ghozovici, Gabe Rubin, Jamieson Webster

The Trans-migration of the Body of Schreber into a Woman
German birds, Schreerian exercises stage a planned interruption of the body of Schreber as it trans-migrates into the body of a woman.

Tammí Garti
An interactive performance involving making noise with people who enter the room.

Poetry
Kathleen DelMar Miller
As a clinician and poet, DelMar Miller is interested in language that evokes, elaborates, disrupts, collapses and regenerates psychic experience. She will be reading selections from a series of poems that consider the landscape of breakdown/break-through, inspired by Schreber's Memoirs of My Nervous Illness, as well as other psychoanalytic ideas such as Wannicott's a time.

Vanessa Sinclair
ILLNESS MEMOIRS MY NERVOUS OF SCHREBER
A series of works created by cutting up Schreber's memoirs and combining them with other psychoanalytic texts, resulting in an uncanny peek into the recesses of the unconscious.

Film
ps Scanlon
(w/ Bechak Carey, and Kyle Corea)
Granted: From Glory to Grandeur
Our expanded cinema piece explores the materiality of light in the shadow of Schreber's Memoirs. Through a smattering of Sufi texts — from the Islamic Mystic Shihaboddin Sohravardi — and an experimental 16mm piece, centered on film's capacity to both catch and throw light, I hope to substantiate Schreber's account, which is to say, to emphasize the fact of light's substance, not its function as metaphor, or abstraction. The 12th century Syrian Sufi, Sohravardi, is notable precisely for his articulation of light as an intelligence, manifesting a variety of forms, colors, and initiations. 16mm, given the mechanism of film, exhibits the material quality of light's existence, the chemicals or even "nerves" essential to the production of an image, and the psychological — however mystical or mystifying — aspects of this production. Additionally, the character of judge Schreber will be represented in costume, encouraging spectators to play with the film itself, to refract and reflect the projector's rays of light.

Scholarly Works
Marcus Coelen
Schreber's Letter to Flechsig

Kabir Dandona
What Is Soul Murder, Anyway?
Dandona will present a short inquiry into one possible meaning of Schreber's potent and suggestive expression "Soul Murder."

Luce DeLait
Milk a He-Goat
Luce will discuss the famous phrase "Milk a he-goat" borrowed from Freud in his discussion of the Schreber memoir.

Michael Eigen
I want to be a woman: Caesura, Blackout, Rebirth
Eigen will read excerpts from his written work on Schreber.

Adrienne Harris
Diagnosis as the Erasure of Subjectivity
Adrienne Harris will read short excerpts from three texts: Louis Althusser's memoir The Future Lasts Forever, in which he 'confesses' or describes the murder of his wife in 1980 and argues that the diagnosis and legal protection of the legal category 'non-lien' (no grounds) and the refusal of prosecution undermined and erased his subjectivity; Schreber's Memoire; and Najinsky's letter to Dughiel, written from the asylum in which spent most of his life.

Henry Lorthane
Excerpts from "Schreber's Relation with God"
One of the world's foremost Schreber scholars reads from one of his many writings on Schreber.

Emma Lieber
Psycho Presidents
This piece plays with the language of the presidential position, as brought to life in very different forms by Daniel P. Schreber and Donald J. Trump. How are presidents named? How do they speak? How do their naming and their speaking instantiate their presidential appointments or self-appointments? We love to diagnose presidents, and though we talk Trump a psycho, his language is far more confined than that, as a prison of perpetual comparison that pales in comparison to Schreber's far more bigly fruitful productions.

Mark Sanders
Psychoanalysis, Mourning, and the Law: Schreber's Panorama as Crisis of Judging
Gregory Shankland
The Phenomenology of Hearing Voices
Gregory will discuss personal experience with hearing voices.

Readers
Tanja M Auf der Heyde
Jessica Arenella
Adrienne Harris
Emma Lieber
Alvaro Moreira
Lauren Siegal
Andrew Stein
Felicia Strein
Halle Thurnauer
Aleksandra Wagner

Ushers
Sarah Grass
Victoria Woods