

The Marginal

WATERMARGIN

WINTER 2016 ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



Congrats to Pablo Maggi, our fall graduate!

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Education Event



Cecelia Rose LaPointe: Decolonization of Water Issues from an Anishinaabe Perspective

On November 15, Watermargin hosted our largest education event of the semester at RPCC. The presentation was organized by our education chairs, Benjamin Montano and Sam Schirvar, and the purpose of the presentation was to offer a unique perspective on water issues from a Great Lakes Anishinaabe perspective.

Highlights of the presentation included: traditional Anishinaabe women's role with the water, colonization and violence towards Native women, environmental racism, current water issues in urban areas such as Flint to Native/First Nations communities such as the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community to Aamjiwnaang First Nation. The presentation sought to engage attendees from a perspec-

tive that looks outside of territorial lines and colonial maps.

Cecelia Rose LaPointe, the woman who gave the presentation, is an Ojibway/Métis who is a part of Kchiwiikwedong (Keweenaw Bay Indian Community) and is Ajijaak (Crane) Clan. She is the Owner of Red Circle Consulting, which specializes in community engagement work, outreach, presentations, projects, and workshops. The core focuses include: building bridges, expanding awareness, and creating understanding around often difficult and complex issues. Additionally, she is a poet and writer who has published anthologies, booklets, chapbooks, dissertations, journals, magazines, and on-line Indigenous-Native publications.

Halloween Party

Groovy Ghools and Spooky Fools

Following in the long and illustrious Watermargin tradition, we threw a big (very big!) party for Halloween. The house was decorated with spooky spiders and cobwebs (some real, some purely decorative), the music was excellent, and the costumes were top-notch.



The party got off to a great start. By 11:00, the house was full (150+ people!). The dance floor in the dining room was a happy, sweaty crowd filled with respectful gyrating. By 11:30, our keg had run out. But no matter -- the vibes were great and we wouldn't let a little thing like that hurt our perfect party atmosphere.

But it was too good to last. Around 12:30, an unknown guest snuck into the blocked-off game/music room and set off the fire extinguisher. This in turn set off the fire alarm. And so we evacuated our many disappointed guests.

Emergency Services complimented our evacuation, and because they could not find any source of alcohol, we were in no formal trouble. Kegs, as it turns out, fit very nicely into the guest room fire place.

Though it ended earlier than we'd hoped, it was, all in all, a great success. We'll just have to pick up where we left off next year!

WM House Band

During House Clean, house members Benjamin Montano and Franklin Ellis and mealplan member Jonny Collazo transformed our messy game-room into a rockin' practice and recording space for their band, West End China Shop.



Reprinted below is a review of their concert from the *Cornell Daily Sun*.

Bull In The Lo-Fi Rock: West End China Shop at 660 Stewart.

By Matt Pegan.

When I stooped into the basement of 660 Stewart on Saturday night to catch the debut performance of Cornell's own West End China Shop, I wasn't sure what to expect. Going to Fanclub Collective and Ithaca Underground shows, one sees [her] fair share of lo-fi rock bands. While there are many standouts, far more common are the acts which are perfectly forgettable. Would West End China Shop be yet another half-serious, irony-soaked project by a group of

20-somethings who, at the end of the day, probably had something better to do? Another whiney, soul-bearing emo band? Another technically skilled, but conceptually uninteresting, post-rock outfit?

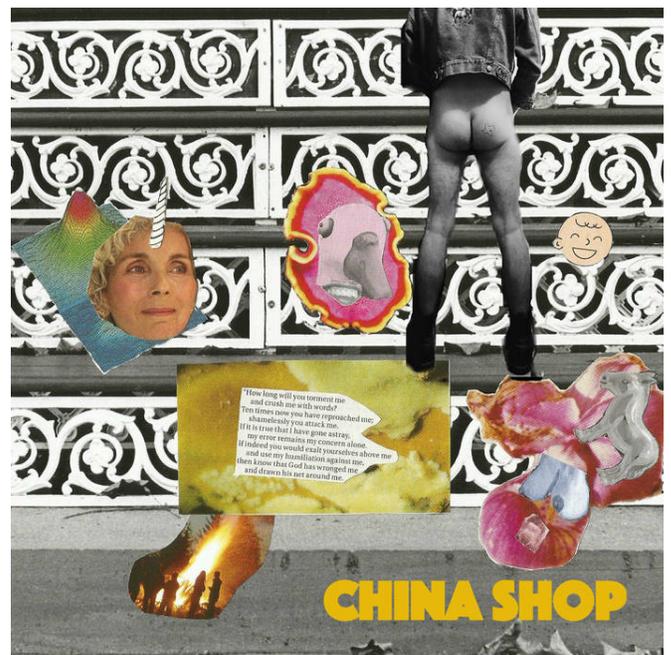
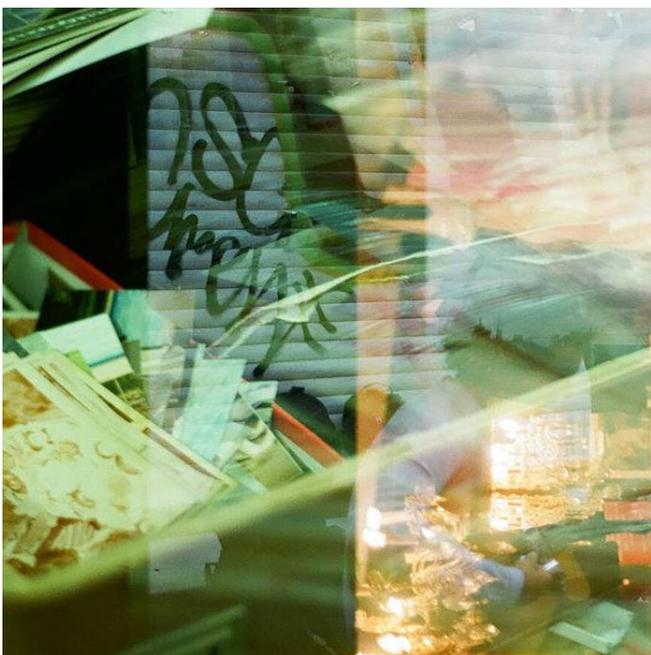
One possibility I hadn't considered was that they'd be really fucking good. As I found my place in the packed and bumping crowd and finally opened my ears to the sounds coming from the amplifiers, I was delightfully surprised. Where I'd half

expected would be lackadaisicalness and pretentious distance were genuine passion and engagement, and all of a sudden I was forced to consider whether or not the Facebook-event-page promise of a “night of toe-tappin’ rock n’ roll music” had indeed been ironic.

The frontman sounded like Stooges era Iggy Pop, or Velvet Underground era Lou Reed, and damn near had the stage presence to match. After the set, I heard a Bob Dylan comparison kicking around, which, if I didn’t quite agree with it at the time, seems totally valid now that I’ve listened to the band’s recordings on Bandcamp. “Because I’m alone,” he sang on standout track “October,” “and I end up stoned/I got no home/I could be hanging with the wrong crowd,” and

for better or worse I think most of the room could relate. Accompanying his voice was well-crafted, punk-tinged, rock n’ roll, underpinned by a keyboard which balanced the raw power with its melodious warmth. The band played self-described “bangers” from their latest and first release “WM Demos,” and finished up with a cover, apropos to their aesthetic, of Weezer’s “Undone — The Sweater Song.”

I stayed to hear the next couple of acts as well (Groupie and Idaho Green) — two bands more established than West End China Shop, who put on impressive and enjoyable performances — but I daresay that it was China Shop who stole the show. I couldn’t be more excited to see what they manage to do and release in the coming months.



Music available at <https://westendchinashop.bandcamp.com/>

Holiday Dinner



What we ate (an incomplete list):

13 pounds of brisket
Chocolate Hazelnut Crepe Cake
Mac and cheese
Eggplant parm
Risotto
Enchilladas
Stuffed mushrooms
Home-baked challah
Devilled eggs
Spanish omlette
Tiramisu
Puerto Rican egnog
NOI Bean Pies



Other House Events

August 20: Baby's 1st Day of School Party. A welcome back party where everyone dressed like kindergarteners and partied like recess time.

August 22: Clothing Swap. Now any time you wear anything you can guarantee a friend will say "hey, that was my shirt!"

September 3: Shotluck. House Party where every room mixes a special drink.

September 5: Fanclub Concert. Painted Zeros // Izzy True // Bethlehem Steel // Benjaminto.

September 10: Bonfire with friends, including other coopers. S'mores, Singing, Stories, Snuggling, and

s'more alliteration...

September 15th: Film screening of the documentary *Give Me Sex Jesus*, followed by an open discussion about the intersection between religion and sexuality. Tea and naughty snacks were provided.

December 2: Fanclub show LSDX-EXO with Keanu Stryker. DJ Dance party.

December 4: Cornell Middle Eastern Ensemble living room concert.

December 10: Women's Rugby Prom, held at Watermargin.

December 15: Living room concert. Boycott // China Gate // Slumbers.



Cornell Middle Eastern Ensemble

Annual Watermargin Reunion

Friday, June 9 (Reunion Weekend)

4:00-6:00 PM at the house, 103 McGraw Place.

All are welcome. Light refreshments will be served. No RSVP is necessary.

If you have photos you'd like to share, please bring them with you!

Watermargin Alumni Board recruiting 2 new members

Finance/investment and/or legal background a plus.

Commitment of quarterly meetings and three year term.

Contact board President, Jenée Chizick Agüero: jenee@motivomag.com

New and Improved Watermargin Website:

<http://watermargin.org>



Want the full print edition of the newsletter?

Have questions, comments, memories, or photos, or anything else to share?

Call or email current Alumni Secretary Aurora Rojer:

973-494-2446 // arr99@cornell.edu