

*Sol Sistere*

Saturday 21 December, 6 pm – 12 am

TEMP Art Space

57 Walker Street, New York

I molded  
my body  
around  
you to  
hold your  
winter to a  
sanctum of  
flame

—CAConrad, from the (Soma)tic poem *QUALM CUTTING AND ASSEMBLAGE (for Tommy)*

*December 21* – The shortest day of the year, the winter solstice. The most darkness: a space for ritual, for strange spirits to emerge.

*Sol Sistere* (the Latin origin of the word solstice, meaning *sun stands still*) is a one-night exhibition of time-based work relating to darkness and the often dark, porous boundaries between the physical and spiritual world. Building on the solstice's connection to earth-based, non-Christian religious practices and astrology, the exhibition examines art-making as ritual and representation as a metaphysical practice. The durational nature of the work included – installation, performance, film, and projected photographs– reaffirms the role of the solstice as a marker of time passing.

The exhibition also emphasizes the historical association between earth-based, pagan religious practices and queerness. As elaborated in Arthur Evans' *Witchcraft and the Gay Counterculture*, the demonization of earth-based alternative religions – beginning in early civilizations, and solidified with the advent of Christianity – often occurred concurrently and in close connection with the persecution of (previously acceptable, culturally sanctioned) homosexuality. Drawing on this history, *Sol Sistere* presents a queered look at, and celebration of, the winter solstice.

Artists in *Sol Sistere* are Matteah Baim, Peter Fankhauser, Hunter Hunt-Hendrix, Raúl de Nieves, Rachel Schuder, Colin Self, and Joshua Zucker-Pluda. The exhibition is organized by Dana Kopel with Peter Fankhauser.