FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, 13 April 2015 Contact: lia@participantinc.org, 646 492 4076

Neil Goldberg, *One Version of Events*
April 19 – May 24, 2015
Opening Reception, Sunday, April 19, 7-9pm

Sunday, April 26, 7pm
Bodies in Space
An evening of conversation and performance about embodiment, featuring NASA astrophysicist Dr. Michelle Thaller, choreographer Miguel Gutierrez, scholar of race and sexuality Robert Reid-Pharr, playwright Normandy Sherwood, artist Neil Goldberg plus special guests.

Sunday, May 10, 7pm
Several Versions of Events
Artist Neil Goldberg uses the videos, photographs, and drawings in *One Version of Events* as a launching point for an evening of stories about the pleasures and horrors of embodiment.

From April 19 – May 24, 2015, PARTICIPANT INC is very pleased to present **Neil Goldberg, *One Version of Events*.** Featuring drawings, photographs, and video, the exhibition explores the condition of being embodied, especially the need to eat. Named after a Wislawa Szymborska poem – which chronicles the deliberations of incorporeal beings offered the possibility of human existence – *One Version of Events* contemplates the strange situation of finding oneself alive as essentially an animal, in a particular place and time, needing to consume other living organisms to survive.

Goldberg is known for photography and video works that render everyday, otherwise quotidian urban moments extraordinary, even revelatory, such as the fleeting disorientation of walking aboveground from the subway; missing the train, when moments of disappointment break otherwise hardened expressions; office workers circling an unexceptional salad bar in search of food. For *One Version of Events*, food becomes an especially wrought topic, as Goldberg correlates natural predators and prey with their human variants – familial, romantic, or otherwise. In the process, the two are related and juxtaposed in playful, often humorous ways.

A collection of small, delicate drawings comprising *Wild Animals Eat My Family and Me* (2015) portray Goldberg and other immediate relatives being violently devoured by packs of hyenas, lions, and other predators, while *The Gay Couples of Whole Foods* (2013-2015) offers a notably inverse scenario: its gridded snapshots feature homosexual partners leaving the upmarket grocer, whose attractive food displays sanitize the brutal fishing, killing, and butchering intrinsic to domestic food production. It gives little reference to where food actually comes from.

With *One Version of Events No. 4 (Wolf and Elk)*, Goldberg foregrounds this more violent nature of consumption with an animated video of hunter and hunted in close pursuit, the animals' bodies fleetingly abstracted into opaque outlines, while a tall projection, *One Version of Events No. 5 (Spheres)* (2015), suspends bubbles in mid-air. Each contains prey literally in the mouth of its hunter – seized in a moment of death.

In the back of the gallery, two of Goldberg's videos, *Reverse Commute* (2015) and *Shit Hunt* (2014-2015), emphasize more abject, biological processes related to consumption. In the former work, a stand-in for Goldberg crawls on all fours, backwards, into the artist's studio, his clothes forcefully stripped as if by invisible hands. Showing the man Sitting directly onto a low microphone until it fully enters his anus, the video thus connects mouth with ass, eating to defecation. *Shit Hunt*, meanwhile, documents Goldberg as he tries, often in vain, to buy dog droppings from New York City residents, making a perverse economy out of fecal matter. These works, among others, turn day-to-day rituals of human existence into fantastical, and funny, Freudian musings on the absurdity of the human body.

Neil Goldberg has been exhibiting video, photo, and mixed media work since 1992 at venues including The Museum of Modern Art (permanent collection); The New Museum of Contemporary Art; The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum; The Hammer Museum; The Kitchen; The Pacific Film Archive; NGBK Kunsthalle Berlin and El Centro de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona. His work was the subject of recent surveys at the Museum of the City of New York and the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, and in 2013 was presented on fifteen of the large digital signs in Times Square as part of a public art initiative by Times Square Arts. Goldberg has received support from the Guggenheim Foundation, the New York State Council on the Arts, the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, the Experimental Television Center, Harpo Foundation, CEC ArtsLink, Yaddo, the MacDowell Colony and the Still Point Fund. He teaches at the Yale School of Art and Parsons The New School, and this summer will be on the faculty at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture.

Production Direction: Nick Rymer. **Digital Animation:** Kolin Pope (lead), Nir Bitton, Shira Inbar. **Illustration:** Kerry Thompson. ***Reverse Commute* Performance:** Devon Gallegos. **Camera, Editing, and Production Assistance:** Alexander Ho, Andi Burnett, Anita Chao, Cecilia Mezulic, Elizabeth Bick, Erica Fahr Campbell, Katherine Gorsuch, Matt Bockelman, Melissa Preston, Sarah Lasley. **Thank you:** Alix Pearlstein, David Everitt Howe, Eve Sussman, Harpo Foundation, Howard Goldberg, Jacques Servin, Jamie Tiampo/SeeFood Media, Joe Wolin, John Pilson, Kate Mailer, Larry Krone, Machine Dazzle, Martin Frommer, Melissa, Finn and Parker Callaway, Michelle Thaller, Mitchell Davis, Ria Roberts, Sandra, John and Brian Dekker, Sequel, Sharon Marcus, Sierra Pettengill, Sue Simon, Susan Margolin, Tom Leach, Yaddo, Michelle Handelman. **Special thank you:** Bernhard Blythe, Cecilia Mezulic, Guy Lancaster, Jeff Hiller, Jennifer Callahan, Lia Gangitano, Nick Rymer.

Image caption: Neil Goldberg, *Wild Animals Eat My Family and Me (Jeff and Hyenas)*, 2015

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Common Practice New York is an advocacy group that fosters research and discussions on the role of small-scale arts institutions in New York City. Common Practice New York aims to collectively embody the question, *What is our common practice and why do we value it?* commonpracticeny.org

PARTICIPANT INC is located at 253 East Houston Street, between Norfolk and Suffolk Streets on the LES, ground floor, wheelchair accessible. Subway: F to Second Avenue, Allen Street exit; or JMZ to Essex/Delancey. participantinc.org