

*Ann Hirsch: Playground*

Saturday, March 28, 8:00pm

JOAN is pleased to present *Playground*, a one-night production by Ann Hirsch. *Playground* is a two-person performance drawing from the artist's early adolescent online encounters in AOL chat rooms. Set in the late nineties, *Playground* follows the online friendship between Anni (12-years old) and Jobe (27-years old) as it develops via their instant message banter, imagined and real conversations. A coming-of-age story for a first-generation internet user, the play reflects on the confusion of adolescent sexuality and the development of gender identity alongside the digital revolution.

Hirsch is a video and performance artist and writer who looks at the ways technology has influenced popular culture and gender. Her research includes becoming a YouTube camwhore--amassing over two million views on her videos-- and appearing on several popular reality television shows.

*Playground* was originally commissioned by Rhizome and performed at the New Museum (New York) in 2013. In 2014, the play was presented at the South London Gallery at Goldsmiths College (London). A companion ebook, *Twelve* (2013), was censored from the iTunes store but is now available at Klaus von Nichtssagend Gallery (New York). Hirsch has been an artist-in-residence at Atlantic Center for the Arts (New Smyrna Beach, Florida), Yaddo (Saratoga Springs, New York), and the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (New York). Hirsch lives in Los Angeles.

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