

***RU Programs at Governors Island
Courtney Askey & Ahmet Civelek***

May 5th, 2023 | 12 - 6pm



KODA / RU House

Governors Island, Colonels Row, Building #404B, first floor

These programs benefit from the support from the Arts Council England and Klingspor Abrasives

Untitled (Blue Sandpaper on Governors Island) by Ahmet Civelek



Untitled (Blue Sandpaper on Governors Island) is a site specific installation by the RU artist Ahmet Civelek made of jumbo rolls of sandpaper installed by the artist on the grass field in front of the KODA/RU House. Conceived as an interactive artwork, visitors of Governors Island are invited to walk on the sandpaper. The process behind these large works begins with Civelek's interest in the inherent defects that are present in the rolls of sandpaper as they often go discarded and wasted after sitting for months of storage. Civelek then liaises with the sandpaper producers to acquire “jumbo” rolls of material with manufacturer’s defects. Changing their purpose, setting, and definition brings new life into these rejected and overlooked materials.

The Total Rebrand Retreat: Welcoming the New Era with Charlotte Ives by Courtney Askey



RU artist **Courtney Askey** presents a double exposure at 'The Total Rebrand Retreat'. Fictional AI tech company Hercy B Enterprises is rebranding, and you (as shareholders) are invited to this exclusive corporate retreat on Governors Island. We will be joined by CEO, Charlotte Ives, as we unplug and unwind in this peaceful and unique space in the New York Harbor and find out what comes next as part of this exciting rebrand.

Link to the full performance.



Courtney Askey is a cross-disciplinary artist, musician and writer who aims to interrogate her experience as an artist through the use of transmedia storytelling. She explores fiction, identity, AI technology and gender through an anti-capitalist and post-cyberfeminist lens. Her work is imbued with a questioning of what labor means in both a wider sense, and in the making of her own work. The politics of labor are not absent from the creation of her artwork and its position in the greater landscape of the art institution. Her practice is about making; what she has made, what she will make, why she makes, how she sees herself during making, how she sees herself in relation to how others will see her after making. In approaching this through an analytical and curatorial perspective, the work goes through a number of filtration processes which allows it to eventually grow into its position within the gallery. When her artwork is situated within the gallery it exists within the pre-existing context of the space, and these conditions contribute directly to the fabric of her work.



Ahmet Civelek is a Turkish-American conceptual artist based in New York City. Civelek's artworks are concerned with defining and redefining destruction in relation to his experiences growing up in Istanbul at the turn of the millennium. Using drones, photography and industrial sandpaper, he creates artworks that investigate how humans interact with the tactility of their environments. Civelek's installation artworks often have a participatory component relating to conflicting ideas about destruction and form. In his solo exhibition Number 3: Grit at Pi Artworks Istanbul in 2018, the gallery floor is lined with rolls of sandpaper and guests are invited to walk through the space. As they walk through, visitors damage the sandpaper with their footprints while also wearing away the soles of their own shoes. His ongoing series Floor of Destroyed Objects allows viewers to walk over a floor of broken ceramics and glass. Civelek uses these interactions to show participants a connection between entertainment and violence.