

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Soft Systems and Open Secret present *Culture is an Initiation Ritual***

Opening Reception: Saturday, October 19th at 6PM-Midnight

Location: Lot49, 2201 W Huron, Chicago

Soft Systems and Open Secret are delighted to announce *Culture is an Initiation Ritual* — a group exhibition and film screening featuring video, painting, sculpture, and installation.

**Show Statement**

*Culture is an Initiation Ritual* presents culture as a process of transformation, for both those deeply embedded in internet history and those encountering it for the first time. The exhibition fosters a space where language, technology, and the unknown blend into an evolving system of shared interaction. Drawing from Bataille's concept that "the richest knowledge... is to honestly recognize that we know nothing and to talk about the unknown," the exhibition encourages audiences to embrace uncertainty and engage with the unfamiliar as a collective experience.

The works on display are dynamic, continuously evolving extensions of each artist's practice. Recognizable internet motifs and memes are woven throughout the show, becoming part of our collective cultural memory.

In this exhibition, culture is positioned as an initiation—an ongoing ritual of discovery and exchange, one that mirrors the complexities and uncertainties of our digital age.

— Written by Dana Dawud, edited by M. Martinez

**Participating Artists**

Dana Dawud, Redactedcut, KIRAC, Sulaiman Majali, Poorspigga, Ali Reza, Elsie Lappoh, Carmen Llin, Xafya Lovecraft, Marble Index, Onty, John-Robin Bold, Machine Yearning, Nina Maia, Casey VanDyke, Linn Phyllis Seeger, Anne-Joelle Tan, Anabelle Lee Dehm, Lorenzo Osterheim

**Event Details**

Date: Saturday, October 19th 2024

Time: Opens at 6 PM; Film screening from 8 PM to midnight

Location: Lot49, 2201 W Huron, Chicago, IL 60612

**Soft Systems:** Soft Systems is a decentralized gallery that hosts curated art salons and exhibitions in Chicago. The gallery explores the intersections between different forms of media and artistic practices, presenting a diverse range of work from visual and performance artists.

Web: [www.softsystems.site](http://www.softsystems.site)

**Open Secret:** Open Secret is a touring offsite event showcasing time-based works that use new media and emerging technologies rooted in online culture. Open Secret has traveled to venues across Sweden, Hungary, Mexico, Austria, and the United States.

Web: [www.instagram.com/\\_opensecret\\_](https://www.instagram.com/_opensecret_)

**Lot49:** Lot49 is an artist-run DIY music and art space in Chicago's Ukrainian Village neighborhood dedicated to fostering a creative and inclusive environment.

Web: [www.instagram.com/lot49.chi](https://www.instagram.com/lot49.chi)

For more information, please contact M. Martinez at [info@softsystems.site](mailto:info@softsystems.site)

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