

Hello My Name is: Dark-eyed Junco

Dreier Offerman / Calvert Vaux Park, Brooklyn New York.

November 22, 2008 11am- 4pm.

What:

Junco is a response to the immanent installation of six artificial turf soccer fields scheduled to begin at Calvert Vaux Park November 24th. The renovation will significantly change the park's natural habitat, which serves as a temporary and permanent home to a variety of birds. *Junco* examines the identity of the bird watcher in nature.

The play will begin in a decentralized fashion at various stations around the park that humorously "teach" people about birding- transforming the entire area into a kind of military base configuration of psychic avian awareness. The audience will then come together and use the skills they've learned in an actual bird-watching tour.

The place:

Calvert Vaux was itself created from earth displaced in the construction of nearby Verrazano Narrows Bridge. It was named after the famous architect who washed up dead on nearby shores in a freak drowning accident in 1895. In the summer of 2007 the park made news when a Western Reef Heron, a bird native to the Persian Gulf, seen only 4 times previously in North America was sighted.

Some philosophy:

The birdwatcher aspires to ride the wave crest of our god-like practice of *naming*, to be the creator of containers of stored information and unbreakable word-object associations. Their enhanced binocular vision is flattened, purposeful and cinematic. As in a film, each "shot" has meaning, and can presumably fit into a master narrative of conservation (aesthetically similar but diametrically opposite to hunting). There is however a moment in bird watching, when confronted with a species previously unseen, that the birdwatcher's mind is in a kind of quantum state- seeing (and believing) but having no language to demarcate the encounter. Their presence is intensely displaced and they may experience for a moment, a kind of "oneness" with the bird. From here they must undergo a moment of self-redefinition in order to move forward and break the bird down into colors, shapes, etc.

Dillon de Give is an artist living and working in Brooklyn.