



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Press quality photos available upon request

DINNER SALON and PERFORMANCE EVENT

Caf e Isegrim: "Fox vs. Kingdom"

Saturday, October 17th, 6:30pm – 9:30pm

@ Old Glenford Church, 210 Old Route 28, Glenford, NY (a few miles from Woodstock)

Doors open at 6:30pm, dinner and performance go till 9:30pm

Advance reservations are required, seating is limited

Purchase tickets online: studio-reynard.com or by calling 917-622-0294

Studio Reynard, directed by H el ene Lesterlin, is pleased to announce Caf e Isegrim – a dinner salon and short performance, inspired by medieval feasts, with entertainment provided by troubadours and puppets – taking place at the newly-renovated Old Glenford Church on October 17th, 6:30- 9:30pm.

Last seen in New York City at St. Ann’s Warehouse as part of the Labapalooza Festival of New Puppet Theater, the performance will feature the newest episode from Studio Reynard’s **"Fox vs Kingdom"**, created and performed by long-time collaborators H el ene Lesterlin and Anastacia Bolina, both Catskills-based, along with singer-songwriter Laura Brenneman. With handmade puppets, low-fi special effects, songs and shadows, the three performers will share a meal and then immerse the audience in one of the oldest animal satires in the history of literature. A first-time collaboration with sculptor, salon host and cook Mor Pipman ups the ante for this artist-run pop-up restaurant by offering locally-sourced and hand-crafted food.

“Fox vs. Kingdom” is a satiric performance of puppet theater, based on the darkly funny escapades of Reynard the Fox, a medieval epic. Drawing on the uncanny and disarming charm of puppets, this show is designed as a barbed entertainment in an intimate setting. An outrageous story told in English/French/Latin/jibberish and through song and puppetry, it exposes themes of entrenched power structures, the advent of law, the slick rebuttal, and the hunger that drives us to break codes of conduct.

In this ancient beast epic, Reynard the Fox stands accused of murder, theft, adultery, sacrilege and excessive violence. Careening from folk song to operatic satire to salacious tango, animal appetites dominate in this retelling of a medieval blockbuster.

Café Isegrim is a dinner party, a salon, a gathering of artists, friends and fans. It is a way for us to bring together our community, sharing food and drink, as we open up the creative process of “Fox vs. Kingdom”. Begun as a way to shared inspiration, prototypes, techniques and scenes, Café Isegrim has grown into a public event in which a fully-fledged new episode of the show-in-progress is presented each night, alongside a light dinner.

“Fox vs Kingdom” will premiere in its entirety in 2016, and is made possible in part by a residency at Mount Tremper Arts, a Seed Grant from the Jim Henson Foundation, and the generosity of donors.

The first part of this project was developed as part of the [St. Ann’s Warehouse](#) Puppet Lab in New York City, October 2013 – May 2014 and culminated in a show as part of Labapalooza! Festival of New Puppet Theater.



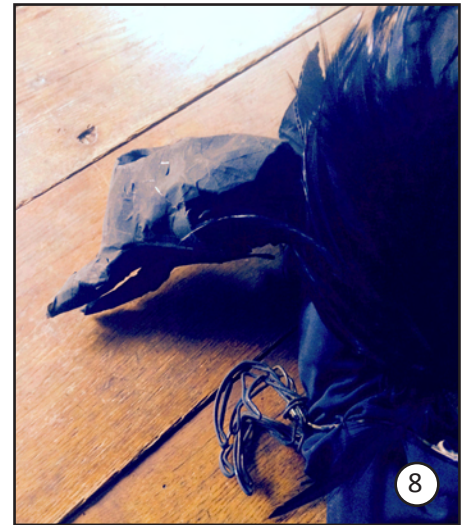
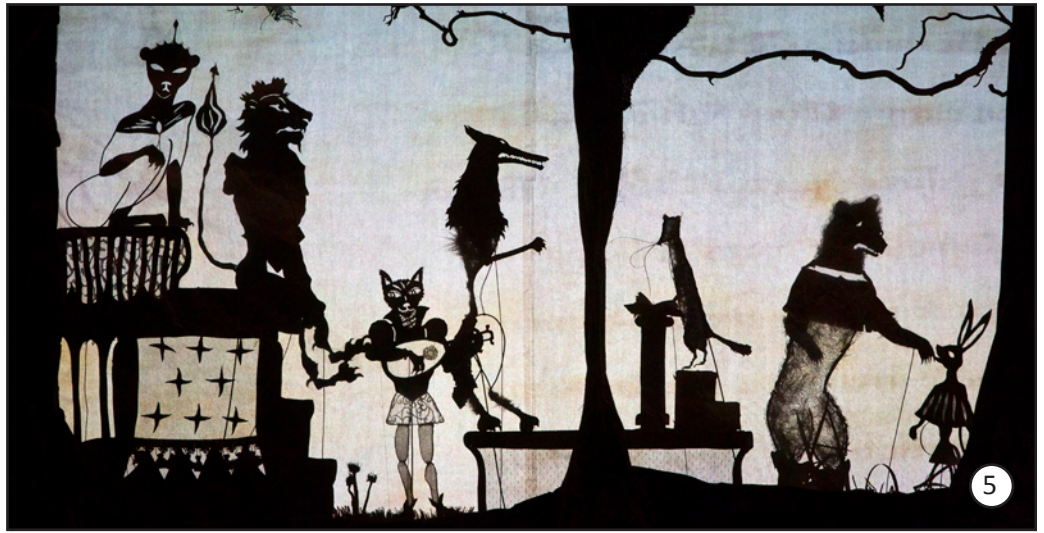
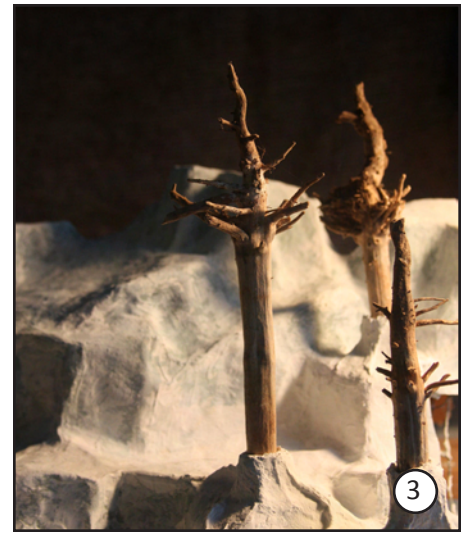
About Studio Reynard | Héléne Lesterlin

Héléne Lesterlin creates performances and time-based art works. Founded in 2012, Studio Reynard is home base for her work as artist, director, performer, choreographer, curator and instigator of collaborative projects. In 2014, she created two works based in historical archives: [Overlook](#), a solo dance theater project in the format of a lecture, draws from the Woodstock Historical Society's archives and interviews with elders in the community; [Geographica](#), a site-specific improvised dance duet with a radio-based sound-score, created for Wave Farm's Groundswell 2014 event at Olana (Hudson, NY) mined the Olana archive, and responded to both the Persian-inspired historic site and current events in the Middle East.

Current projects include a series of works steeped in French medieval sources – tapestries, folk tales, troubadour ballads, and encyclopedic lists of real and fantastic creatures; [Fox vs. Kingdom](#), a satiric puppet show based on the story cycle of Reynard the Fox, was last seen in NYC as part of the St. Ann's Warehouse Puppet Lab's 2014 Labapalooza festival; [Darkling](#), a somber, transmogrifying solo dance performance with live interactive video was recently presented in the Subterranean Poetry Festival (Rosendale, NY), and in the Cinedans Festival (Amsterdam, The Netherlands); [Echo](#), a walking sound work that visits ghosts using micro radio transmitters is in progress.

Héléne Lesterlin currently serves as Director of Programs at [Mount Tremper Arts](#), an artist-run center with year-round residencies and a summer festival of new works across genres in contemporary performance and music. From 2005 – 2011, Lesterlin served as founding Curator for Dance and Theater at [EMPAC](#) – the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY – an institution dedicated to the production and presentation of adventurous contemporary work spanning performance, media, installation and art.

Lesterlin is the recipient of awards and residencies, including the 2014 Individual Artist Grant, a Decentralization Program regrant from NYSCA, administered by Arts Mid Hudson; a Jim Henson Foundation seed grant for Fox vs. Kingdom; the Summer Stages Choreography Fellowship (Concord, MA); an Artward Bound/The Field residency (Sperryville, VA); and a training residency sponsored by the Fondation Royaumont in France. In 2004, she was selected to participate in TCG's Artistic Leadership training. In 1999-2000, a Luce Fellowship allowed her to pursue her work for a year in Taipei, Taiwan. She has served as a speaker, panelist and juror for many contemporary performance festivals and organizations, nationally and internationally. She holds a BA in Visual Art (sculpture/performance) from Yale College and a MFA in Dance from Bennington College. She grew up in Paris, London and New York City, and currently lives in upstate NY.



Fox vs Kingdom

A troubadour puppet satire by Studio Reynard / Created and performed by Laura Brenneman, Anastacia Bolina and H el ene Lesterlin
Developed as part of Puppet Lab 2013-14 at St. Ann's Warehouse, NYC.

Photo 1, Reynard the Fox rod puppet (20" tall)

Photos 3, 4, Isegrim the Wolf rod puppet (8" tall) and set design for his scene of getting stuck in the ice

Photos 2, 5, 6 taken at dress rehearsal for Labapalooza! festival performances at St. Ann's, May 2014 (performers + shadow scene)

Photo 7, the entrance to Reynard's castle lair

Photo 8, hand puppet of the Crow (18" tall)