

#01

House of Revision / House of Repair

by Uma Breakdown

IMAGINE THIS SITUATION
by Odete

God's House Tower
Town Quay Road,
Southampton, SO14 2NY
5th June - 27th July 2026



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This text was commissioned by 'a space' arts as part of our Critical Writing programme. The writer was invited to respond to the ideas and themes in the exhibition, House of Revision / House of Repair.

Content Warning: Please be advised this text contains mature themes, including explicit sexual content and strong language. Reader discretion is advised.

IMAGINE THIS SITUATION;

There is a document, somewhere, made of paper and ink. There is a spirit trapped in that document, somehow. Someday, there is a girlboy, a boygirl, a multiplicity, that will cum on that document, unintentionally. The stickiness of the fluid will adhere to the aged paper and it will blot out letters. Without the fullness of a word, the adjacent letters to the ones who became blurred ...become... an enigma. Dispossessed of the solidity of word-meaning; orphans of the alphabet. But what exactly happened, you may ask? This is the story I want to tell you. I could've just jumped straight to the drama of the act, but the important part is not the person, or the cum, or the document, or the letters. The important thing in today's text is this layering you can call: time. What is important, both in the story pulsating through this text and in Uma Breakdown's work is the layering of time, as a sort of performance. Time is, in fact, performative. It performs. Time is the ultimate performer. No circle. No arrow. No spiral. A grand gesture of a sentence, this one. The cliché "time is a river" could be re-adjusted to mean time moves, time flows, in the sense that time performs itself. So, the important thing is the fact that the layering that happens with the cumming on top of the document that blurs our letters happens overtime. It is a theatrics of time, because only time could create it on its stage. Imagine the document pertaining to 1500. The spirit trapped in it in 1680. The document archived in 1950. The person cumming on it in 2026.

So you are starting to see glimpses of the story. But I haven't quite said what I wanted about time and Uma's work. The thing is that the performance of the situation of this story is the same of Uma's work. Time has performed a layering through Uma. Could we dare to say that the person in the story is Uma? A profanity! Maybe, the person is no person but an impersonation of Uma's work. Yes, let's say that. Let's imagine that the exhibition (this exhibition, the one you experience from Friday 5th June 2026 to Monday 27th July 2026) takes on a character, an anthropomorphic character. What could this mean? That Uma's work becomes the character that cums on an aged document holding a spirit within it?

Moving on: I have yet to describe the details of this hypothetical situation, so I will start this text again:

There is a document, made of paper and ink. It is a very old document, the paper has yellowed and is full of stains. This is a document about St.Brideswell. It is archived in a public archive (cannot give more details to keep some secrecy). Even though most people don't know, this document has a spirit trapped within. It is a water spirit. A spirit that had several names throughout their lifetime. At its peak, it was called Cybele. It has a twin, a moon spirit. It is a shadowy spirit, as opposed to the water one. Unfortunately, I do not know if this spirit is also trapped somewhere or if it roams freely. However, I do know that when twin spirits are separated, the place of their separation becomes decay. If a bridge, it becomes a broken bridge. If a palace, a decayed palace. If a garden, a withered one. It can also be political decay. A sort of curse upon the political sphere of the area. But we will get to decay in a bit. So, this document is archived in a place that the impersonation of Uma's work is researching on. It is nighttime. No one is in the archive but Uma's work. They approach the document feeling suddenly horny. There is something in the stains produced by time, in the artstyle of the letters, in the violence it narrates, that arouses Uma's work. They start reading the document while touching themselves, certain words triggering their nervous system

correction
the sound of whips
well behaved
no hair
trade
society
the sound of wits
affection
imprisonment
sorority
the sound of lips
the world
their world
our world

re-enchanted

They cum. Orgiastic knowledge production, they think. They look at the cum all over the document. Regret starts hitting once they see that words and sentences became diffuse. Blurred. Meaningless. They laugh first, thinking this some kind of revenge towards the material. Fuck Brideswell, they think, They feel. However, the post-cum feeling is not fully one of vengeful victory. Regret. Deep rooted regret. How is this a victory over the document, if what produced the document in the first place was this sort of wanking-off knowledge making of these power hungry men? Horny little fuckers, wanting to imprison us! All because they wank their thoughts and their politics! I am just like them!

Meanwhile the spirit is hearing and feeling and looking at Uma's work. Trapped, it cannot do anything but empathize. However, as the water spirit it is, it cannot hide its joy when the paper, dried up with time, becomes wet. It cannot hide its happiness watching the little ink stains grow bigger, engulfing letters and engulfing sense. The spirit feels honored with the movement of Uma's work cumming. It decides, from the core of its prison, to try and bless Uma's work. After all, the fluid that came out of it is a sort of sacrifice to the spirit, is it not? A gift. A future: the potential of organic fluids to disrupt other materials overtime is huge;

Uma has a breakdown. The spirit wants to offer a hug, but it lacks a body. So it gives another blessing. A promise to unite both Uma and Uma's work in a sacred fictionalized space, where both archival obsessions and future speculations can co-exist.

At the sacred grove:

I am sorry. Everything is so dazzling

Confusing?

Yes, but also sprinkled with a sort of magic. It makes me dizzy to go into it

The archive, you mean?

Yes, but also this thing of historiography. It is a sort of ocean glitter.

Isn't it the ocean itself? And we some sort of pirates?

That would be beautiful, but no?

It would make sense, you know, historiography as this aqueous movement.

It would, but that's not what I mean. You know when the sun is high and the movements of the water reflect its light, giving us a show of glitter over its surface? Each crest a sparkle?

Yes.

So, that's what I mean. Historiography is the meeting point between the sun's light and the ocean's materiality. A touching, a friction.

So, just like the tip of iceberg.

You're such a poetry killer!

Isn't that the metaphor you're looking for?

No! It is not a metaphor! It is a real thing. For once in your life, take me seriously.

I am taking you seriously.

The night is cold.

The stars are cold.

No, the moonlight is cold. Look at how it touches your skin.

Another meeting point. Touching: light, skin.

You're funny.

Is this historiography?

Yes.

They kiss. A wet kiss, the saliva pouring out of their tongues and shining under the pale moonlight.

About Odete

Odete (they/them) is the alias of Levi Gabriel Carvalho, a multidisciplinary artist who salivates across writing, music, theater, and visual arts, leaking historical research into everything they do. They claim to be a bastard daughter of Lucifer, a descendant of the medieval practice of satanic pacts to alter someone's sexed body. They have been researching and working on building connections between "effeminate" histories, from Baroque castrati to 19th-century dandies. Their latest book was published by Outline and is called "They lied to you about the eunuchs"- turning theory into the stage for poetry. Their work can be found at **odete.pt** or followed on Instagram at **@odetetheslayer**

About Uma Breakdown

Uma Breakdown is an artist, writer, and game designer whose work engages animals, horror, and play. Across disciplines, her practice explores shifting combinations of love, grief, hallucination, and an excess of joy. She is currently drawing on Assemblage Theory and the history of religious art to develop a "dismembered Écriture Féminine," in which a strategy of bricolage becomes a reflection of transition-as-becoming and a capacity for repair.

Uma has performed and exhibited at institutions including Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Embassy Edinburgh, Etc Prague, FACT Liverpool, KIM? Riga, Raven Row, Whitechapel Gallery, and Wysing Art Centre. Forthcoming exhibitions include Troublemakers & Prophets; Elizabeth Allen and Other Visionary Artists at Compton Verney. Recent publications include "Two Dolls & An Egg" (with Belladonna Paloma) for *Almanac: Journal of Trans Poetics* (Helsinki, 2024); "The Graveyard of Extension" in *Deleuzine*, Vol. 2 (London, 2023); "Trans Death Magic" for *SlugTown* (Newcastle, 2023); and "Love as Vector and Void in Luce Irigaray's 'The Natal Lacuna' and Tai Shani's 'Phantasmagoregasm'" in *JAWs* (2025). She was shortlisted for the Adam Reynolds Award (2020) and The Arts Foundation Award (2023) and is a 2025 Fellow at the Henry Moore Institute.

About the Exhibition

House of Revision / House of Repair by Uma Breakdown is a project about love, restraint, liberty, pain, growth and collapse. Commissioned by 'a space' arts for God's House Tower, the exhibition explores alternative routes through time, drawing on fact and fiction to reimagine the past and speculate about the future.

Working across drawing, fiction, animation, code and sculpture, the artist revisits the building's past as a Bridewell, an institution established in the 18th Century to house 'idlers, vagrants and prostitutes'. The project asks what a place of spiritual and physical repair for people seen as 'other' might be, if freed from the authority of state and church that underpinned these 'Houses of Correction' and the subsequent systems they have evolved into since?

Using the unique history and architecture of God's House Tower, as well as the artist's home of the North East, *House of Revision / House of Repair* imagines a sacred grove for fringe cultures and unconventional communities with alternative belief systems, such as ancient outlawed religions and pre-modern travelling performance groups, centering communal care at the edges of legality.

Read more about the exhibition on our website:

www.godshousetower.org.uk

Research and Reference List

This list was created by Uma Breakdown to accompany the exhibition: *House of Revision / House of Repair* at God's House Tower. The list contains books, essays, literature, games, movies and songs that Uma uses as research and reference material.

1. **Fragments of an Anarchist Anthropology** — Baedan
2. **The Beautiful Thing that Awaits us All**
— Laird Barron
3. **The Body Politic** — Clive Barker
4. **Eroticism** — George Bataille
5. **Story of The Eye** — George Bataille
6. **Visions of Excess** — George Bataille
7. **Ficciones** — Jorge Luis Borges
8. **Cities of The Red Night** — William H. Burroughs
9. **Invisible Cities** — Italo Calvino
10. **The King in Yellow** — Robert W. Chambers
11. **Three Steps on The Ladder of Writing**
— Hélène Cixous
12. **Infinity Pool** — Brandon Cronenberg
13. **Possessor** — Brandon Cronenberg
14. **Dhalgren** — Samuel R. Delany
15. **A Scanner Darkly** — Philip K. Dick
16. **No Future: Queer Theory and the Death Drive**
— Lee Edelman
17. **The Origin of the Family, Private Property
and the State** — Friedrich Engels
18. **The Golden Bough** — James George Frazer
19. **The Criminal Child** — Jean Genet
20. **Un Chant d'Amour** — Jean Genet
21. **Stainless** — Tom Grimson
22. **Anti-Oedipus** — Félix Guattari and Gilles Deleuze
23. **One More Year** — Simon Hanselmann
24. **Dorohedoro** — Q Hayashida
25. **Songs of a Dead Dreamer** — Thomas Ligotti
26. **Necropolitics** — Achille Mbembe
27. **The Woman** — Lucky McKee
28. **Resident Evil 7: Biohazard** — Koshi Nakanishi

29. **House** — Nobuhiko Obayashi
30. **Angels Egg** — Mamoru Oshii
31. **Ghost in the Shell** — Mamoru Oshii
32. **Jawbone** — Mónica Ojeda
33. **Nope** — Jordan Peele
34. **Us** — Jordan Peele
35. **The Yellow Wallpaper** — Charlotte Perkins Gilman
36. **Vermis I** — Plastiboo
37. **Cyberpunk: The Roleplaying Game of the
Dark Future** — Mike Pondsmith
38. **Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism
in Queer Times** — Jasbir Puar
39. **Sorry to Bother You** — Boots Riley
40. **Signalis** — Rose Engine
41. **Venus in Furs** — Leopold von Sacher-Masoch
42. **Station 11** — Emily St. John Mandel
43. **The Empire Strikes Back:
A Posttranssexual Manifesto** — Sandy Stone
44. **Marat/Sade** — Peter Weiss
45. **The Shadow of The Torturer** — Gene Wolfe
46. **Negative Space** — B.R. Yeager

Listening List

This list was created by Uma Breakdown to accompany the exhibition: *House of Revision / House of Repair* at God's House Tower. When starting a project Uma creates a playlist to capture the mood that the show needs to have and she plays it whenever she writes or makes anything related to the exhibition.

1. **Lord Can You Hear Me** — Spacemen 3
2. **Silence Is Sexy** — Einstürzende Neubauten
3. **Wind and Snow** — Grouper
4. **Dark As A Dungeon** — Joni Mitchell
5. **The Road Through Town** — Fief
6. **Sno Og Granskog (Utferd)** — Darkthrone
7. **A Quick One Before the Eternal Worm Devours Connecticut** — Have a Nice Life
8. **One Caress** — Depeche Mode
9. **The Cry of a Mistaken Soul** — Jim Williams
10. **Venus In Furs** — The Velvet Underground
11. **Reeling the Liars In** — Swans
12. **Fiat Lux** — Einstürzende Neubauten
13. **Invocation Of Lust** — Silent Servant
14. **Hands First Flower** — Melvins
15. **Blood Swamp** — Boris
16. **Nostos Algos** — Thrones
17. **My Garden** — Agriculture
18. **Price Of Life** — Hide
19. **Petplay Polycule Open Fire** — Uboa
20. **Saran Wrapped Cash** — Crippling Alcoholism
21. **Your Skull Is Red** — Team Sleep
22. **Get Me Away from Here, I'm Dying**
— Belle and Sebastian
23. **Cattle And Cane** — The Go-Betweens
24. **Lungs** — Townes Van Zandt
25. **Down to the Wire (2017 Remaster)**
— Buffalo Springfield

Glossary of Terms

Speculate

To guess possible answers to a question when you do not have enough information to know the answer.

Subsequent

Something that happens after something else.

Grove

A group of trees planted closely together.

Fringe

The outer part of an area or something that exists on the edges.

Assemblage Theory

A theory used in philosophy to help understand how complex things; such as social networks, physical objects, biological matter, are made by individual parts that remain autonomous within the whole.

Écriture Féminine

Introduced by Helene Cixous in her essay, *The Laugh of the Medusa*, *Écriture Féminine* refers to a uniquely feminine style of writing characterised by disruptions in the text, such as gaps, silences, puns, new images and so on.

Bricolage

The act of constructing or creating something from a different and an easily available range of things.



Scan the QR Code to read more about the exhibition and Critical Writing Commission

God's House Tower
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