

DJ JJ Lopez's email invite to the *Persistent* opening at Artpace, San Antonio, TX

by JAY LOPEZ. 2007

The founder of the "diggindeequartet" DJ collective and lead DJ of the closed Davenport Lounge in San Antonio — and O'Grady's collaborator on the installation — emails a description of *Persistent* to his list.

Hello Everyone,

Well, we're back. It's been a while and the diggindeequartet has been busy! We've been working on solo projects, club nights, YA, Art openings, Art pieces, collaborations, guest spots, and more than anything, we've been enjoying the Music!! We have some great news to announce this week so without a further delay, let's get on with the 411.

Hold up!! Real quick: before we mention all of the good stuff, I wanted to take a moment to say, thank you to everyone who has supported me over the years and the diggindeequartet. I originally started off the ddq project with high hopes. But one can never foresee the future and one can never foresee the changes that will come one's way. It is with both great sadness and great joy that I announce that as of July 12, 2007, I will be stepping down from the diggindeequartet as founder and director. This does not mean that I will not be djing around the city or that you will no longer see me on the dance-floor sweating it, hell has not frozen over. What this means is, just like the Davenport was handed over to the capable hands of our co-founder DJ Gibb, so will the diggindeequartet. It is with great joy that I announce our new director, DJ Gibb, Gibby Diaz. This man has been making huge waves in the city since his return from Austin and shows no sign of slowing down. I wish him and the crew the best as I confidently step aside and allow our future to be guided by DJ Gibb. Gibb, keep that mutha rockin'. On with the show.

Since the closing of the Davenport, there have been a few articles, a few radio mentions, lots of talk and most of all lots of treasured memories going around the city of San Antonio. We have this week a very special art opening happening at Artpace (445 N. Main Ave. San Antonio TX 78205). Artist, writer, and all around Hipster, Lady Lorraine O'Grady will be presenting her new installation this Thursday, July 12, 2007 at 6pm. See below for more info.

(from the Artpace brochure)

“about the project: *Lorraine O'Grady's Persistent*

Lorraine O'Grady's *Persistent*, co-produced by Jay Lopez, is a eulogy to the recently closed Davenport Lounge in San Antonio and the culture it came to embody. The imposing installation, with its accompanying audio and video projections, demonstrates the kaleidoscopic generation and repression of multiethnic counterculture.

The twilight street scene environment recalls the artist's first visit to the nightclub two months after it had been shut down. Upon entry, one encounters an austere façade, dimly lit by floodlights and revealing only the viewer's reflection. O'Grady has superimposed this portrait of the spectator onto the building to evoke a sense of personal loss, inviting us to mourn the destruction of a space that so many had once enlivened in a free expression of the beauty found in diversity.

One must peer into the windows, almost pressing one's nose against the glass, to see within O'Grady's nightclub. The sparse interior features carefully arranged clusters of Art Deco furniture and empty Davenport lounges. On the walls, ghostlike projections of Hip Hop, Funk, and House Music dancers energetically move in sync with the pulsating music. Emerging as a contemporary manifestation of Egyptian funerary monuments,

the exhibition evokes the riches of a bygone era and the eminence of what has been lost.

The fusion of rhythms that resonate from the edifice are vibrant, yet melancholic, in their repetition. Composed by the DJ's Rise and JJ Lopez, the mix sporadically fluctuates in volume, mimicking the sounds emitted from opening and closing club doors—a nod to the lines of Davenport patrons that used to wrap around the city block. The loop begins with an upbeat and energetic tempo that quickly diminishes and then rises once again, symbolizing the rise and fall of the Davenport Lounge. This Hip Hop funeral anthem both heralds DJ culture, underlining its presence as a profession that combines the artistic efforts of myriad peoples, and memorializes what Barbara Ehrenreich has called "the need for public, celebratory dance that seems hardwired into us. . . a uniquely human capability."

O'Grady's installation symbolizes neither failure nor success, but the perseverance of counterculture in the face of racism and discrimination."

Thank you everyone,

Keep the Faith

I'll see you all on the dancefloor,

Peace,
JJ-

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Myspace JJ Lopez

GarageBand JJLopez

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