

Bullets to Bells

WITH STEPHANIE MERCEDES



THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2019

6:30 PM TO 8:30 PM

IA&A AT HILLYER

9 HILLYER CT NW

Hillyer celebrates the 2019 By the People Festival with *Bullets to Bells*, a public participatory workshop by Stephanie Mercedes. In collaboration with Studio Gallery, *Bullets to Bells* invites members of the public to drop cleaned empty bullet casings into a small portable forge, and then watch as the bullet casings melt down and are transformed by Mercedes into a peaceful ringing bell. The bell will be hung on the site and will pay tribute to gun violence in the area. A short poem written collectively by the public who participate in the performance will be engraved on the bell made "by the people." During the melting process, singers will quietly reflect on the moment of material transformation.

Stephanie Mercedes

Stephanie Mercedes is a Washington, DC-based artist who melts down weapons and bullet casings confiscated by the DC police to make musical installations and instruments. Mercedes has exhibited, performed and lectured at the Smithsonian, Bronx Museum and Queens Museum. Mercedes has been funded through George Soros' Open Society Foundation and Light Works. In 2018 She was an artist in Residence at Halcyon Art Labs and VisArts. Mercedes hopes to transform and destroy the very materiality of violence into its opposite: music and art.

STUDIO GALLERY
WASHINGTON DC

The longest-running artist-owned gallery in Washington, DC, Studio Gallery is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that showcases artworks by members and holds special exhibitions by invited guest artists and guest curators. The Gallery conducts community outreach programs and other charitable activities, all open to the public free of charge.



By the People Festival is an international arts and dialogue festival presented by Halcyon. Launched in 2018, the festival brings visual art, performing art, and dialogue to all four quadrants of Washington, DC, all completely free and open to the public. Each year a different curator interprets the festival's founding themes: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.