

WHO THE HELL IS IMRE LODBROG?



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There's a pithy description I use to describe him to friends: "He's like Serge Gainsbourg on shrooms."

But if I were to be a little less cheeky, and if I were to elaborate, I'd tell you what I once told Imre in an email. I said, "I was thinking about the appeal of your music and I think it's that you sound like an actor playing the role of an aging rock star, which is precisely the appeal of Leonard Cohen and Bob Dylan, not to mention Frank Sinatra and Léo Ferré..."

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In this evening of music, video installation and reading, Barbara Browning will introduce Imre Lodbrog, an aging French rock star and minor - or possibly major - genius. Barbara Browning writes fiction, and Imre Lodbrog is fictional, but she didn't make him up. Imre Lodbrog did it for her, and served himself up on a platter. Barbara Browning invited him to come from Paris to New York so she could eat him whole. In return, she offered herself as his muse, back-up singer, and "little friend." This is their performance debut. They will also be releasing their 7" vinyl EP, with an accompanying digital disc, *Imre Lodbrog et sa petite amie*.

Barbara Browning is a performance scholar, novelist, dancer, video maker, and amateur ukuleleist. She is the author of a couple of academic books, as well as the award-winning ficto-critical novels *The Correspondence Artist* and *I'm Trying to Reach You*, both of which entailed corresponding online performances. Her work has been described as "part memoir, part fiction, part epistolary, part metadata-existentialist philosophy, part art installation."* Another observer hazards that "no contemporary novelist has captured the way technology has reshaped our social and erotic lives the way [she] has."**

We already told you, Imre Lodbrog is a fictional character, and some kind of genius.

Lodbrog and Browning's EP will be available for purchase on the evening of this performance. They will accept as payment any of the following options: US\$1, US\$5, US\$10, US\$20, US\$100, an art object of comparable aesthetic value, or an object of any nature of comparable sentimental value. They will not be giving change. The performance is free.

*Sarah Twombly, *KGB Lit Magazine*.

**Emily Gould, *emilybooks.com*.