



INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART
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NEWS RELEASE



top: Paul Ramirez Jonas

bottom: Martin Creed

ENSEMBLE

SEPTEMBER 7–DECEMBER 16, 2007

OPENING RECEPTION: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 6-8PM

EXHIBITION WALKTHROUGH WITH GUEST CURATOR CHRISTIAN MARCLAY AND ICA DIRECTOR CLAUDIA GOULD: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 5PM, *ICA MEMBERS ONLY*

PHILADELPHIA, PA

The Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) is pleased to present “Ensemble,” a group exhibition of works that make sound, guest curated by artist and musician Christian Marclay, on view September 7 – December 16, 2007. Marclay has been selected as the inaugural curator of the Katherine Stein Sachs CW’69 and Keith L. Sachs W’67 Guest Curator Program, a new initiative designed to bring outside points of view to ICA. Marclay is a leading figure in the worlds of performance, visual art and experimental music.

Likening his approach to that of a composer, Marclay has chosen a variety of sculpture and installations based on their sound quality and compatibility to sonically inhabit the same large first floor gallery. Visitors are invited to interact with some of the works, others are triggered by motion detectors, or set on timers. The installation will create an ambient sound environment, intermittently producing a wide range of sounds, from the very quiet notes of a music box to the loud ringing of a bronze bell. They have been selected so that they can share the same resonant space and interact like the various instruments of a musical ensemble. It will include iconic works by artists such as Harry Bertoia, Yoko Ono, and Michelangelo Pistoletto, as well as new works by the current generation.

Whether it comes from sonic or video art, in the curatorial field, sound is often relegated to isolated exhibition spaces where it cannot interact, or presumably disturb, other pieces. Marclay proposes to work against that impulse by intentionally intermingling pieces to see what may result when they are put together for an entirely unprecedented curatorial purpose.

This exhibition will be a listening experience, enhanced by a series of performance events, in which artists and musicians invited by Marclay will perform within the exhibition, reacting to the artworks’ sounds. The exhibition will be documented by a CD featuring recordings of the installation and performances, and a text by Christian Marclay.

Christian Marclay (b.1955 in San Rafael, California, raised in Geneva, Switzerland, lives in New York) is an artist and musician who is as highly regarded for his work as a visual and performance artist, as he is for being a composer and deejay. He began performing music in the late 1970s, while still a student at the Massachusetts College of Art in Boston, at which he had enrolled after attending art school in Geneva, where he had grown up. Among his many important projects are: “Shake, Rattle and Roll: Christian Marclay,” Franklin Art Works in collaboration with the Walker Art Center,

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*checklist and images available upon request.

GENERAL INFORMATION

ICA is located at:
118 South 36th Street at the
University of Pennsylvania

ICA is open to the public, except during
installation, from 12pm to 8pm on
Wednesday through Friday and from 11am
to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Admission is \$6 for adults, \$3 for students
over 12, artists, and senior citizens; and
free to ICA members, children 12 and
under, PENN card holders, and on Sundays
from 11am to 1pm.

For more information,
call 215-898-7108/5911, or visit
www.icaphila.org.

INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Founded in 1963, the Institute of
Contemporary Art at the University of
Pennsylvania is a leader in the presentation
and documentation of contemporary art.
Through exhibitions, commissions,
educational programs, and publications,
ICA invites the public to share in the
experience, interpretation and
understanding of the work of established
and emerging artists.

Minneapolis, MN; "Christian Marclay: Video Quartet," Kunsthalle Fridericianum,
Kassel, Germany; and "Amplification" at the Church of San Stae for the Venice
Biennale (this installation represented Switzerland). In 2003, his work was the subject
of a major survey organized by Russell Ferguson at the UCLA Hammer Museum.

Marclay has had a significant presence in Philadelphia since 2003, when the
Philadelphia Museum of Art invited him to participate in their "Museum Studies"
series. Marclay's "The Bell and the Glass" created an exploratory intersection
between the cracks of two Philadelphia landmarks: the Liberty Bell and Marcel
Duchamp's *Large Glass*. (The local experimental music group *Relâche* performed as
part of the exhibition.) Currently, Marclay is a member of the curatorial team who is
developing programs and exhibitions for "Hidden City" an initiative of Peregrine Arts.
In December 2006 Marclay performed at ICA with John M. Armleder in conjunction
with Armleder's exhibition of drawings then on view. Marclay's art is featured on the
cover of the survey *Sound Art Beyond Music, Between Categories*, published by Rizzoli
and will be released this November while "Ensemble" is on view at ICA.

Participating artists include: Terry Adkins, Doug Aitken, Darren Almond, John M.
Armleder, Fia Backström, Harry Bertoia, Céleste Boursier-Mougenot, Angela Bulloch,
Martin Creed, David Ellis, Mineko Grimmer, Tim Hawkinson, Jim Hodges, Evan
Holloway, Pierre Huyghe, Paul Ramirez Jonas, Nina Katchadourian, Martin Kersels,
Jon Kessler, Katja Kölle, Yoko Ono, Dennis Oppenheim, Michelangelo Pistoletto,
Carolee Schneemann, Noah Sheldon, Yoshi Wada and Angela White, among others.

THE SACHS GUEST CURATOR PROGRAM IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE GENEROSITY OF KATHERINE S. CW'69
AND KEITH L. SACHS W'67.

ALL PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE VISIT THE ICA WEBSITE, WWW.ICAPHILA.ORG, FOR MORE
INFORMATION ON PROGRAMS IN CONJUNCTION WITH "ENSEMBLE."