MASTERS OF MODERN SOUND

ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES AND FORCE MAJEURE

AUSTRALIA l WORLD PREMIERE

ART GALLERY OF NSW

10–12 JANUARY

4 HRS

Featuring

Chris Abrahams

Caterina Barbieri

Corin Ileto, Becky Sui Zhen and Casey Hartnett

Dean Hurley

Del Lumanta

Ghenoa Gela

Harrison Elliott

James Vu Anh Pham

Lawrence English

William Basinski

Audio Production: Laurence Hall, Mark Taylor

Lighting: Kane Hancock

Creative Producer: Jonathan Wilson

Executive Producer: Heather Whitely Robertson

Force Majeure

Artistic Director/CEO: Danielle Micich

Executive Producer: Colm O’Callaghan

Masters of modern art from the Hermitage Exhibition Curator: Dr Mikhail Dedinkin, Deputy Head, Western European Art Department (State Hermitage Museum)

Art Gallery of New South Wales Director: Michael Brand

Deputy Director & Director of Collections: Maud Page

ABOUT THE WORK

Blurring lines between sound, visual art, movement and live performance, Masters of modern sound presents an eclectic mix of sonic and performative interventions inside an art gallery, after dark. Taking inspiration from Kandinsky’s vibrant and colourful landscapes featured in the exhibition Masters of modern art from the Hermitage, intended as visual chords of colour to ‘hear’; this unforgettable new immersive sonic experience uses artwork and architecture as a graphical scoring mechanism. Featuring ambient music and minimal electronics, musicians will present their practice via modular synths, tape loops and computers to sit behind, beside and within the art that hangs on the walls; from historical paintings and sculptures to modern Australian landscapes and the art of the avant-garde. Experience art and sound like never before.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Chris Abrahams is a Sydney-based pianist best known for his work with Australian trio The Necks. Abrahams has also been a member of the Benders and Laughing Clowns. His latest release Fluid to the Influence was released in 2016 on Lawrence English’s influential Australian label Room40. For Masters of modern sound, Abrahams will perform a new durational solo piano work.

Caterina Barbieri is an Italian composer who explores themes related to machine intelligence and object-oriented perception in sound. Primarily working with modular synthesizers and strings, Barbieri has performed extensively throughout Europe and the UK. Her second album Born Again in Voltage (Important Records) was released in September 2018 to critical acclaim. For Masters of modern sound, Barbieri will perform in the 20th and 21st Century Australian Galleries.

Corin Ileto, Sui Zhen and Casey Hartnett are a Melbourne-based trio who produce, compose and perform contemporary classical and electronic music for live events, performance art and digital platforms. Tonight, they will perform newly-commissioned electronic music inside the exhibition Masters of modern art from the Hermitage — conceived as a live score for the artwork.

Dean Hurley is an American music producer, audio engineer and film sound editor. Hurley has collaborated extensively with filmmaker David Lynch on sound design as well as producing Lynch’s albums. In 2017, Hurley released Anthology Resources Vol 1. which featured sound and music from the 2017 series Twin Peaks: the return. Hurley has created a series of new site-specific compositions that can be heard throughout the night.

Del Lumanta is an artist and musician from Western Sydney. Their ambient music is a meditation on modern restlessness. Their other music projects include GAS, Call Compatible, Video Ezy (Paradise Daily), Skyline (Nice Music) and Basic Human (Meatspin). Tonight, Lumanta will perform minimal electronics in the 19th Century Australian Galleries.

Lawrence English is a Brisbane-based composer, artist and curator. His work is broadly concerned with the politics of perception, specifically the nature of listening and sound’s capability to occupy the body. In 2018 English released two full-length collaborative albums: one with Alessandro Cortini (Italy), the other with William Basinski (USA). English and Basinski will close the event, performing their album Selva Oscura in full.

William Basinski is a Los Angeles-based avant-garde composer best known for his four-volume album The Disintegration Loops (2002–2003), constructed from decaying twenty-year-old tapes of his earlier music. A classically-trained clarinettist and jazz saxophonist, he began developing his own vocabulary using tape loops and old reel-to-reel tape decks. Selva Oscura (2018) is Basinski’s first collaborative release with long-time friend, Australian musician Lawrence English. They will perform it in full for Masters of modern sound.

FORCE MAJEURE

Led by Artistic Director Danielle Micich, Force Majeure produces critically-acclaimed dance theatre. The company is based around a collective of multi-disciplinary artists committed to creating stimulating movement-based theatre, including dancers, actors, writers, visual artists, musicians, composers and filmmakers.

PERFORMERS INCLUDE:

Ghenoa Gela: Koedal (crocodile) and waumer (frigate bird) woman Ghenoa Gela is a Sydney-based independent artist and proud Torres Strait islander woman from Rockhampton, Central Queensland. She works across dance, circus, television and stage, and facilitates community-based workshops. She has been part of Young, Black & Deadly, Vibe Alive, the inaugural Boomerang Festival, and DanceSite Festival (2012/2015).

Harrison Elliott: Elliott studied dance at The Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts and was a member of STEPS Youth Dance Company for eight years, touring internationally. He has worked with choreographers such as Shona Erskine, Alice Lee Holland, Isabella Stone and Ruth Osborne. In 2017, he joined Australian Dance Theatre as a company dancer.

James Vu Anh Pham: From Perth, Pham started with hip-hop and contemporary dance classes before training in classical ballet at the Graduate College of Dance (Western Australia). He then joined STEPS Youth Dance Company before continuing studies at the New Zealand School of Dance. In 2014, Pham received a Helpmann Award for his performance in Chunky Move’s 247 Days and an Australian Dance Award for AORTA.

THANKS

Masters of modern sound is supported by Atelier, the next generation of benefactors at the Art Gallery of NSW.