

The Kitchen Center for Video and Music

# press release

## RONALD SHANNON JACKSON

## SCOTT JOHNSON

SCOTT JOHNSON SOLO:

April 4, 8:30pm

\$3.00 / \$2.00 members / TDF Music

RONALD SHANNON JACKSON

AND SCOTT JOHNSON:

April 5, 8:30pm

\$4.00 / \$3.00 / TDF Music

The Kitchen, 484 Broome

Reservations: 925-3615

On April 4 and 5, The Kitchen's Contemporary Music Series will present works by composers Scott Johnson and Ronald Shannon Jackson. The April 4th concert will feature works by Scott Johnson; the April 5th concert is a double bill with compositions by both composers.

RONALD SHANNON JACKSON will appear with The Decoding Society. The Decoding Society, led by composer/drummer/flutist Jackson, features Byard Lancaster (alto and soprano saxophones/flute/piccolo), Vernon Reid (rhythm guitar), Billy Bang (violin), Bern Nix (electric guitar), Melvin Gibbs (electric bass) and Irasto Vasconcelos (Brazilian percussion). The Decoding Society is organized as a medium to interpret and translate musical and spiritual messages. The music and the musicians are dedicated to expressing the blood life of the New World. Recordings by The Decoding Society are available on About Time Records.

Writing on a recent appearance of The Decoding Society, Robert Palmer of the New York Times noted that, "...The band is cooking and one looks forward to following along to the next stage of an intriguing and ongoing process." Musician, player and listener Rafi Zabor has made "Special mention...of the powerful drumming of Shannon Jackson. Like Ornette Colman, he seems to be able to work both sides of the action without being bothered that boundaries insurmountable to others are being crossed." And in Jazz Forum Magazine, Joachim-Ernst Berendt observed that "Shannon Jackson is simply the most important new drummer of today."

SCOTT JOHNSON will present works for electric guitar and electronics and for tape. All the pieces are premieres. Untitled 1979 is a tape piece constructed through concrete manipulation of four digital repeat loops, each less than one second in duration. The piece is a reflection on the structure of blues-oriented popular music. Natural Postures is a concert version of material first presented in 1979 as continuous-time installation at Franklin Furnace. Its sound material includes telephone bells, dial tones, busy signals, electric guitar and voice. Finally, Scott Johnson will present pieces from a series of electric guitar solos which utilize an Eventide harmonizer.

Scott Johnson was born in Madison, Wisconsin in 1952. He studied music and art privately and at the University of Wisconsin. Since moving to New York City in 1975, he has been active in both music and art performance and has presented work at The Kitchen, Artists Space, Experimental Intermedia Foundation, Franklin Furnace, P.S. 1, the New Music, New York Festival, l'Espace Cardin in Paris and others. He has received awards from the New York State Council on the Arts, ZBS Media and CHANGE Foundation. Johnson notes that "The goal of my recent work is to contribute to the forging of a new composition rooted in the American musical vernacular, taking as material the technology and instruments selected in its evolution: electric instruments, the 'microphone voice' and the mixing board."