

The Kitchen

Center for video, music, dance, performance, film, and literature

The Glenn Branca Ensemble: *The Third Ascension*

Winter 2016 Season

Winter 2016

“From Minimalism into Algorithm”

Exhibition

January 7–April 2

Taking place in The Kitchen theater and gallery spaces throughout the 2015-2016 season, “From Minimalism into Algorithm” sets contemporary and historical painting, sculpture, performance, and musical composition in counterpoint, proposing a new through-line for art-making during the past half century. Organized collaboratively by The Kitchen and participating artists, the exhibition takes up the legacy of Minimalist art and composition during the 1960s and 1970s—whose seriality was understood by artists and critics to correlate with the era’s industrial production and increased weight placed on the presence of the individual—as a precedent for reconsidering work by a younger generation for whom serial repetition now corresponds more directly with digital technology and the reconfiguring of our encounters with physical space through networked communication.

Andrew Ondrejcek

ELIJAH GREEN

March 10-19. 8pm. \$20.

Andrew Ondrejcek continues work on an adaptation of influential Swedish playwright August Strindberg’s *A Dream Play*. The play presents the scenario of a divine visitation into the contemporary tedium of the everyday human. Despite unremarkable existences, the characters’ stories layer and culminate in a portrait of the interconnectivity of all humans, with each individual both the center of the world and part of something they cannot comprehend.

DD Dorvillier

Extra Shapes

March 25-26, 8pm; March 26, 5pm; March 28-29, 8pm. \$15.

Extra Shapes is a performance for lunging figures, a musical concert for loudspeakers, and a light show. Created by DD Dorvillier, in collaboration with composer Sébastien Roux and lighting designer Thomas Dunn, *Extra Shapes* occupies a rectangular space divided into three horizontal bands, featuring sound in the front, light in the middle, and dance in the back. Picture a slice of Neapolitan ice cream with its three separate bands—strawberry (sound), vanilla (light), chocolate (movement)—then rotate the plate to view each of its sides. In *Extra Shapes*, the idea is to present the three mediums simultaneously but separately, and to propose a new way of experiencing and thinking about abstraction in a live situation. Organized by Matthew Lyons as part of “From Minimalism into Algorithm.”

The Kitchen presents

The Glenn Branca Ensemble: *The Third Ascension*

February 23 at 7pm & 9pm
February 24 at 8pm

The Third Ascension is made possible with endowment support from Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, annual grants from The Amphion Foundation, Inc., The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, and The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation; and in part by public funds from New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and National Endowment for the Arts. *The Smoke (Guitar Concerto for Arad Evans)* was commissioned by members and friends of The Glenn Branca Ensemble and made possible by The Silent Barn.



The Glenn Branca Ensemble:

The Third Ascension

February 23: 7 & 9pm

February 24: 8pm

The Third Ascension

1. *German Expressionism*

Featuring *Guitar Freak Out* by Reg Bloor

2. *The Smoke (Guitar Concerto for Arad Evans)*

3. *Velvets and Pearls*

4. *Lesson No. 4*

5. *Twisting in Space*

6. *Cold Thing (La Belle Dame sans Merci)*

Conductor: Glenn Branca

Guitars: Reg Bloor, Arad Evans, Brendon Randall-Myers, Luke Schwartz

Bass: Greg McMullen

Drums: Owen Weaver

Projected Drawings: Robert Longo

The Smoke (Guitar Concerto for Arad Evans)

was commissioned by members and friends of The Glenn Branca Ensemble and made possible by The Silent Barn.

Glenn Branca was born in Harrisburg, PA in 1948. In the last 40 years his work as a composer has included music for experimental rock bands, large ensemble instrumentals for electric guitars, 16 symphonies for both electric instrumentation and acoustic orchestras, chamber ensemble pieces for a wide variety of instrumentation (both electric and acoustic), an opera, a ballet, choral works and music for film, dance, theater and installation art. His ensemble has done hundreds of performances all over the world. 14 full-length albums of his music have been commercially released and his works have been included in a number of compilations. Extensive articles and interviews about his work have been published in major publications, books and music dictionaries worldwide. In addition, he has written five articles on music for *The New York Times* blog “The Score” and has appeared in ten commercial documentary films discussing music. He is considered by many to be one of the most influential living composers both in the fields of alternative and experimental rock as well as contemporary classical music. At age 67 he is still performing and touring, although his main interest is in writing music. His animated style of conducting has recently begun to change perceptions about the role of the conductor in music performance. His personal interests outside of music are: literature, mathematics, modern philosophy, conceptual art, neo-surrealist painting, quantum physics, the harmonic series, and politics—all of which contribute to and influence the nature, content and structure of his music. He is the inventor of The Harmonics Guitar and a theory of music based on the Harmonic Series as well as various tuning systems. He has designed and/or built many of the instruments used in a number of his pieces.

Branca is also a founder of The No Wave Movement that started in downtown NYC during the late 70’s with his bands Theoretical Girls and The Static. This movement has now become, after many decades, an international movement in the underground music scene, extending as far as China and Japan. His works for orchestra have been performed by 14 orchestras worldwide, notably: The London Sinfonietta conducted by Paul Daniel, The Orchestra of St. Lukes conducted by David Alan Miller and The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra conducted by David Robertson. He has worked with some of the most important artists of our time: Twyla Tharp, David Bowie, Peter Greenaway, Eiko and Koma, Eric Bogosian, Robert Longo, Laura Dean, Dan Graham, The Wooster Group, The Joffrey Ballet, The Alvin Ailey Company, Sonic Youth, The Kronos String Quartet,

The Bang On A Can All-Stars, Crash Ensemble and many others. Over his long career he has received more than 50 commissions from a wide variety of organizations both public and private as well as having many of these works sponsored by other organizations in later performances and recordings. He has received five major awards solely for Music Composition from: CAPS, NY 1983–84, The National Endowment for the Arts 1988–89, The DAAD Berlin fellowship 1988–89, The New York Foundation for the Arts 1998–99 and The Foundation for Contemporary Arts 2009–10.

Reg Bloor has been working and touring the world with Glenn Branca (to whom she is married) since 2000, performing in his *Symphony No. 12*, his *Symphony No. 15 (Running Through The World Like An Open Razor) (Music for Strange Orchestra)*, *The Ascension: The Sequel* (and on the CD), *Symphony No. 16* for 100 guitars; as concertmaster for his *Symphony No. 13 (Hallucination City)* for 100 Guitars; and as part of Branca/Bloor and the Glenn Branca Trio. She is a featured player in tonight's *Third Ascension*. In June 2016 she will perform in the debut of Branca's Electro-Acoustic Octet at Roulette for the World Premiere of *Meta-Music*. Reg has been performing as a solo artist since 2014, including at The Red Bull Music Academy New York Festival at the OFF Festival in Katowice, Poland and at Brooklyn's National Sawdust during their opening month. In 2015 she release her debut album *Theme from an Imaginary Slasher* on Glenn Branca's SYSTEMS NEUTRALIZERS label. She released three CDs with her previous band THE PARANOID CRITICAL REVOLUTION and one CD with the band Twitcher. She has also worked with David Bowie, Page Hamilton, Thurston Moore, John Patitucci, Annie Clark/St. Vincent, Mike Watt, Adrian Utley (Portishead), Ty Braxton, tomandandy, Jason Vieaux, members of Godspeed You Black Emperor, and Tony Ourlser, among others. She has appeared on the soundtracks to the feature films *The Mothman Prophecies* and *Terror Firmer*.

Arad Evans has been active with noted New York new music ensembles since he arrived in NYC in the mid-eighties. He has been a member of the Glenn Branca Ensemble since 1986. Arad has played with The New Music Consort, The SEM Ensemble, Blastula, Rhys Chatham's Merry Band, Virgil Moorefield and Ben Neill. As a solo guitarist he has premiered works by John Bertles and Rhys Chatham, and regional premieres of works by Elliot Carter and Milton

Babbitt. Arad is the founder and principle songwriter for the NYC-based rock band Heroes of Toolik.

Owen Weaver's “intensely focused” (*Gramophone*) performances—through a combination of original music, improvisation and collaboration with leading composers of his generation—combine the forces of rhythm, noise, beauty and stasis while seeking the musical potential in everyday life. He uses recycled objects, homemade instruments and electronic sounds to construct a kaleidoscopic sound world ranging from the visceral to the sublime, clangorous to hypnotic. Owen has been featured in the NYC-based Wordless Music Series, MATA Interval Series, Fast Forward Austin, two Nonclassical Records SXSW official showcases, and National Public Radio's *All Songs Considered*. A diverse collaborator, he has performed in Europe, South America and throughout the U.S. with Mantra Percussion, Glenn Branca Ensemble, NEWSPEAK, Concert Black, and others; including performances with *Conspirare: A Company of Voices* for a PBS television special and Grammy-nominated album. A passionate educator, Owen is a teaching artist for both the West Side YMCA and the 92nd Street YMCA, and has taught at Yale, Cornell, CalArts, Texas Lutheran University, the University of Texas at Austin, the Hartt School and Rikers Island Correctional Facility.

Luke Schwartz is a guitarist based in New York City. He has been recognized as “Best Guitarist” by Reindeer Records and his composition awards include multiple recognitions from ASCAP, in addition to New Music Forum (San Francisco) and Queens Council of the Arts (New York). As the founder of Quiet City—a NYC based composer/performer collective—his work has explored the cross genre relationship between determinate and improvised music. Schwartz received music degrees (B.A./M.M.) from the University of South Florida, and he has appeared internationally as a composer and guitarist. He is currently on faculty at Kaufman Music Center and Columbia University in New York.

Brendon Randall-Myers is a Brooklyn-based composer and guitarist, and the co-founder of composer/performer ensemble Invisible Anatomy and min/maximalist punk band Marateck. Praised as “fiercely aggressive but endlessly compelling” (*The San Francisco Chronicle*) and “a compositional tour de force” (*San Francisco Classical Voice*), his music amplifies the raw physical and emotional

power of bodies creating sound. As a composer, he has received commissions from the Tang Museum at Skidmore College, the Guitar Foundation of America and Roulette. He has collaborated with performers such as the Bang on a Can All-Stars, The Omaha Symphony, Friction Quartet and guitarist Jack Sanders. As a guitarist he has appeared with Ensemble Signal, Opera Saratoga and Dither Quartet performing at the Beijing Modern Music Festival, Ellnora Guitar Festival and Lincoln Center Out of Doors. Brendon holds degrees from Pomona College and the Yale School of Music.

Gregory James Elroy McMullen is a multi-instrumentalist living in Brooklyn, NY. He can usually be found performing as a solo guitarist under the moniker Skronklife; playing a telecaster or pedal steel guitar for the Los Angeles, CA cowpunk band Speedbuggy USA; or at home in Brooklyn with the honky tonk band Wood, Wires and Whiskey. McMullen is a contributing songwriter, arranger and guitarist for dream pop band Bonsai as well as the rock and soul sounds of Lizzie & the Makers. Often in the role of sideman, he has performed with Chris Whitley, Me'shell N'degeocello, the Twilight Singers, Trixie Whitley, Reeves Gabrels and most recently contributed banjo to the score of the Matthew Barney and Jonathan Bepler's film *River of Fundament*, along with an appearance in the film. He is finishing up his second collection of compositions and improvisations to be released as Skronklife. His first performance with Glenn Branca was the premiere of *Symphony #13* at the World Trade Center, New York City in 2001, and he has been a member of The Glenn Branca Ensemble since 2007.

The Glenn Branca Ensemble: The Third Ascension is organized by Tim Griffin with Katy Dammers as part of "From Minimalism into Algorithm." Taking place in The Kitchen theater and gallery spaces throughout the 2015–2016 season, the exhibition sets contemporary and historical painting, sculpture, performance, and musical composition in counterpoint, proposing a new through-line for art-making during the past half century.

**Limited-Edition Print and Poster in Conjunction with
The Glenn Branca Ensemble: *The Third Ascension*
by Richard Prince**

On the occasion of performances by The Glenn Branca Ensemble: *The Third Ascension*, Richard Prince created a limited edition print and poster. Proceeds from the sale of these limited-edition works will support artists whose groundbreaking, genre-defying work appears at The Kitchen throughout the year. Print courtesy of Richard Prince, print editioning by KARMA.

PRINT:

Richard Prince

Untitled, 2016

Poster image: Richard Prince, *Untitled (Jawbone)*, 2013-2015, painted bronze.

C-gloss print, unframed

18 x 12 inches, including a .25 inch handling border

Edition of 100, signed by Richard Prince

\$200, plus tax

POSTER:

Richard Prince

Untitled, 2016

Poster image: Richard Prince, *Untitled (Jawbone)*, 2013-2015, painted bronze.

70 lb White Ultra Smooth Text (uncoated), unframed

36 x 20 inches

Edition of 100

\$20, plus tax

A limited number of posters signed by Richard Prince are available for \$75, plus tax.

Posters and prints will be available after the performance and will be sold in the order inquiries are received. We cannot guarantee a particular number within the run. Once purchased, works can be picked up at The Kitchen during normal business hours or shipped at buyer's cost. For more information contact Katy Dammers at katy@thekitchen.org or by calling 212-255-5793 ext. 21.



PRINT



POSTER

Save the date

THE KITCHEN SPRING GALA BENEFIT

May 26, 2016

Honoring

**Charles Atlas +
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For more information, please contact Caitlin Gleason at
caitlin@thekitchen.org or (212) 255-5793 ext. 10.

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