



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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The Paul Dresher Ensemble announces its 2016 Dresher Ensemble Residency Artists

DENNIS AMAN - Musical Instrument Invention and Composition

24 Preludes & Fugues (in equal divisions of the octave from 1 to 24) for Electric Guitar & Percussion. A 2-hour work with 48 short pieces performed on invented instruments built specifically for this project and performed by The Living Earth Show

<http://library.newmusicusa.org/DennisAman>

MARIKA BRUSSEL - Contemporary Dance

My Life in the Bush of Ghosts will meld contemporary with Afro-Cuban dance, to create a new work based on Amos Tutola's archetypal novel. Created in collaboration with Baroque cellist Adam Young.

<http://www.marikabrussel.com>

SETH ESSEN (WITH ALEC WHITE) - Interdisciplinary Theatre

The Charlip Project, a new theatrical work about Remy Charlip, a gay Jewish artist, choreographer and children's book author of the mid- to late 20th century. This collaboration with composer Miguel Frasoni and Choreographer James Graham will blend puppetry, live-drawing, dance, theater and art installation.

<http://eyezen.org/>

MARIA ELENA GONZÁLEZ - Experimental Music Composition (Visual and Sound Art)

Tree Talk: A sculpture/music composition performed on a player piano using piano rolls that capture the patterns on the bark of a fallen birch tree. Hearing the "music" of a birch tree will express the inherent logic in all of nature's patterns.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/María_Elena_González

DAN GOTTWALD - Musical Instrument Invention

To create new string and percussion instruments for his Analogous Ensemble.

<http://dangottwald.com/>

SANGO TAJIMA - Theater

WE GO BOOM! 2.0 (working title): Using community interviews, sound, lighting, and projection, Bonfire Makers theater troupe will imagine an ideal future for the City of Oakland where its burgeoning tech sector coexists with the broader community to insure a just future for all.

<https://oaklandnorth.net/2015/04/09/new-play-we-go-boom-explores-tensions-between-tech-industry-and-oakland-community/>

Biographies of the 2016 DEAR Artists

DENNIS AMAN is a Bay Area native who studied Electronic music at SFSU with Richard Festinger and composition privately with Dan Becker. He was a chorister with the San Francisco Symphony Chorus and currently sings with the Cornelius Cardew Choir. In addition to composing and performing, Amman produces and co-houses KALW's radio show "Music from Other Minds."

MARIKA BRUSSEL is a San Francisco-based choreographer and teacher. Born in New York City, she trained as a scholarship student at the Joffrey Ballet School. Lyrical, edgy and narrative, her dances have been performed by Emote Dance Theater, Bay Pointe Ballet, Berkeley Ballet Theater, Ballet Theater of New Mexico and at Regional Dance America's Choreography Intensive, and been shown at festivals such as West Wave 23, SPF 7, Brooklyn Ballet's First Look Festival and at Spectordance.

SETH ESSEN combines Butoh, puppetry, physical theater, clowning, drag, and performance art. As a visual artist he works with different forms of installation, video, book arts, fetish object and costume. His layered aesthetic communicates across multiple genres and artistic frameworks, blurring boundaries and expanding dialogues between various disciplines. Since 2000 he has been performing and creating visuals with Keith Hennessy and the international contemporary circus company Circo Zero/Europe. Seth was a collaborator/performer in Circo Zero's *Sol niger*, which won two Izzies, and in the revival of *How to Die/American Tweaker*, where he appeared as the Ghost of Sylvester.

MARIA ELENA GONZÁLEZ is a Cuban-American artist best known for sculptural installations that are architecturally as well as personally informed. In 1999, González received widespread acclaim for her site-specific outdoor sculpture, Magic Carpet/Home. Commissioned by the Public Art Fund, it was originally installed in Brooklyn, New York,[1] and subsequently in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Los Angeles, California. In the summer of 2005, González was a resident faculty member at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. In 2005 and 2008, she was also a Visiting Artist faculty member at the Cooper Union School of Art. González had her first solo exhibition in New York in 1991 at the Nuyorican Poets Café. She has received grants from the Cintas Foundation (1989, 1994); the Pollock-Krasner Foundation (1991, 1998); Anonymous Was a Woman (1997); the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation (1997); the Joan Mitchell Foundation (1998); the Creative Capital Foundation (1999, 2001); the Cuban Artists Fund (2000); the Penny McCall Foundation (2001); and the New York State Council on the Arts (2003). She was recipient of the Rome Prize from the American Academy in Rome for 2003–04, and was a 2006 Guggenheim Fellow.

DAN GOTTWALD: is a sculptor, sound artist, instrument builder and composer. His work focuses largely on the tactile, the temporary and the social. He holds a BFA in visual art from the University of New Mexico and an MFA in electronic music from Mills College. His recent work includes a project for the Market Street Prototyping Festival, and creative direction of the Analogous Ensemble.

SANGO TAJIMA IS an Oakland artist who grew up in the US, Japan, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, and Thailand. She is a collaborator with The Bonfire Makers, co-founder of Dirty Hands, and Associate Artist of Ragged Wing Ensemble. She earned a BFA in Acting from the University of Michigan, and has directed shows under Loretta Greco, Meredith McDonough, and Jon Tracy. As an actor, her recent roles include Rosaura in Cutting Ball Theater's *Life is a Dream* and Philipa in Impact Theatre's *Year of the Roosters*.

The Dresher Ensemble Artists Residency Program

The Dresher Ensemble Artist Residency program provides studio residencies to early to mid-career Northern California artists working in the time-based arts. The Center is conveniently located at West Grand and Poplar in West Oakland.

Each DEAR artist receives.

- Up to four weeks of full-time access to the Dresher Ensemble's large rehearsal studio
- Access to the Ensemble's fabrication shop
- Use of the Ensemble's large inventory of sound, lighting, recording, and projection equipment
- Consulting sessions with Ensemble staff in the areas of artistic, technical, financial, and managerial assistance

DEAR artists are selected annually through an open application process that is announced on the Internet and through the distribution of postcards and posters at theaters, arts service organizations, community centers, and academic institutions with performing arts programs. Each year, a different panel of three experienced performing arts professionals – one each from dance/movement, music/sound art and theater/performance are selected to evaluate and rank the proposals. (Neither Dresher nor any Dresher Ensemble staff or member participates in the ranking of the proposals.) Typically, we offer six residencies per year, each scheduled according to the artist's needs and the Ensemble's current production schedule.

About The Paul Dresher Ensemble

The Paul Dresher Ensemble is deeply committed to the transformative power of artistic expression. Like the best of American culture, our work is grounded in experimentation and exploration, and embodies a distinctly entrepreneurial spirit. For nearly 30 years the Ensemble has been a creative force and active member of the San Francisco Bay Area as well as the national arts community. Our overarching goal is to produce innovative and engaging performances that reach for the highest artistic standards. We create, produce and tour works of new opera/music theater; we commission and perform new chamber music; we collaborate with other artists and arts organizations; we support their creative work by providing technical, financial, and advisory assistance; and through the Dresher Ensemble Artists Residency, we provide free, multi-week studio residencies to Northern California artists working in the time-based arts.