

For immediate release: October 7, 2015



The Webster University Department of Art, Design, and Art History (DADAH) is pleased to partner with New Music Circle to host; "CHARLEMAGNE PALESTINE: PIANO, ELECTRONICS, VOICE, PIPE ORGAN" as part of the Department's Noon Lecture Series. A lecture and conversation will take place between artist and musician Charlemagne Palestine and curator, Marie Heilich on Friday, at noon on November 6th in Webster University's Sverdrup Hall, 8300 Big Bend Boulevard, Room 123.

Charlemagne Palestine may not be considered a household name in all circles, but his moniker is one you would be unlikely to forget. Now at the age of 70, Palestine has made a name for himself as a musician unlike any other, his signature style being comprised of long evolving drones and sustained notes, often involving installations of stuffed animals that envelope the performance space. He is frequently associated with minimalist composition, since he was a contemporary in the 1970s of composers such as Terry Riley and Steve Reich, yet he states " I never wanted to be an anything", a proclamation which might explain why his widely eclectic oeuvre, extending into film and art installations.

Palestine's work has been exhibited at the 2014 Whitney Biennial; the Venice Biennale; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Moderna Museet, Stockholm; Kunsthalle, Basel; Long Beach Museum of Art; Museum of Contemporary Art, Houston; Palais des Beaux-Arts, Bruxelles; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Documenta 8, Kassel; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; The Art Institute of Chicago; Centre d'Art Contemporain, Geneva; and Musée d'Art Contemporain, Montreal; among others.

His instruments include piano, church organ, church bells, and synthesizer, and with these tools in hand, Palestine composes sounds that exhibit spectral effects when either pushed beyond their bounds, left alone, or both Palestine's "strumming" technique can be explained as repeating sounds, ultimately invoking sonorities into existence.

Now based in Brussels, he was born in Brooklyn to Eastern European immigrant Jewish parents and draws much of his inspiration from the traditional sacred musics he encountered as a youth. Palestine got his early start singing in synagogues, where he learned the art of delivering long pieces. Then as a teenager he attended a special arts school in Manhattan and soon thereafter grew to fame as a carillonneur, or bell-ringer, at a church across the street from the Museum of Modern Art. It was there that his musical style began its alteration between what Palestine refers to as "cataclysms" and at other times "sonorities". Examples of these approaches can be heard in his many recordings, often in collaboration with artists such as Tony Conrad, Pan Sonic, and Rhys Chatham.

Marie Heilich is a curator, writer, and the Assistant Director of White Flag Projects, St. Louis, where she has recently organized solo presentations of work by Dena Yago, Martine Syms, Zak Kitnick, Anna-Sophie Berger and a forthcoming exhibition with Carlos Reyes. Recent writing can be found in the exhibition catalogue for *Puddle, pothole, portal*, SculptureCenter; *The Front Room: Artists' Projects at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis 2008-2013*; and *BOMB Daily*. Heilich holds an MA in Curatorial Studies from the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College.



What:

A workshop for *Charlemagne Palestine: PIANO, ELECTONICS, VOICE, PIPE ORGAN* featuring a conversation between Charlemagne Palestine and Curator, Marie Heilich.

Where:

Webster University
Sverdrup Hall
8300 Big Bend Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63119
Room 123

When:

Friday, November 6, 2015.
12 noon - 1pm

This event is free and open to the public.

Performances:

NIGHT ONE: Saturday, November 7, 2015, Concert 8:00 PM, Doors 7:00 PM
at The Pulitzer Arts Foundation, 3716 Washington Blvd, 63108
Charlemagne Palestine — piano, electronics, voice

NIGHT TWO: Sunday, November 8, 2015
6:00pm doors / 7:00pm concert
Historic Trinity Luther Church. 812 Soulard, 63104
Charlemagne Palestine – Church Organ