

The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth
and
Sounds Modern

presents

Music for Deep Thinkers

Saturday, May 30, 2026, 2:00 pm Modern Art Museum auditorium

Program

from *Perspective* (2022): *Derivative* by Jlin (b. 1987)

Artificial Life 2007, mvmt 1 by George Lewis (b. 1952)

In Memoriam Muhal Richard Abrams (2018) by Tyshawn Sorey (b. 1980)

Artificial Life 2007, mvmt 2 by Lewis

from *Perspective*: *Dissonance* by Jlin

Musicians

Mia Detwiler, violin

Hunter Gross, percussion

Stephen Lucas, electronics

Elizabeth McNutt, flute (Sounds Modern director)

Kourtney Newton, cello

Patrick Overturf, percussion

Jonah Payne, percussion

Kory Reeder, double bass

Chris Trlak, percussion

Notes

Performing in conjunction with Rashid Johnson's exhibition *A Poem for Deep Thinkers*, we're inspired by Johnson's conceptualism and Chicago roots. Informed by *The Freedom Principle: Experiments in Art and Music to Now* by the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, we're featuring works from Chicago based composer-improvisers, including members of the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM).

Jlin (Jerrilyn Patton) was born in Gary, Indiana. Her work is influenced by Chicago footwork, classical composers such as Stravinsky and Glass, jazz musicians such as Miles Davis, and vocalists Sade and Eartha Kitt, among others. *Perspective* was written in collaboration with Third Coast Percussion and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize.

MacArthur fellow George Lewis was born in Chicago. He joined the AACM at age 19; his illustrious career includes improvisation, trombone, composition, computer music systems, musicology, and education [I feel very fortunate to have worked with him while I was a student at UCSD - EM]. *Artificial Life 2007* is a "situational - form" composition for eight to thirty players. Much is left to performer's choices, with Lewis encouraging us to "take time to listen with enjoyment and empathy..." *Artificial Life 2007* was created for the Glasgow Improvisers Orchestra.

Finding notated AACM compositions for Sounds Modern's instrumentation presented challenges, since the AACM's primary focus is improvisation. Born in Memphis, composer and pianist Muhal Richard Abrams (1930 - 2017) founded the AACM and was elected its first president. Tyshawn Sorey, originally from New Jersey, dedicated this work to his friend and mentor; *In Memoriam Muhal Richard Abrams* was composed for violinist Jennifer Koh.

Sounds Modern

The most up-to-the-minute and least predictable concert music series in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, Sounds Modern has been exploring links between contemporary music and visual arts for over a decade. Conceived and directed by virtuoso flutist Elizabeth McNutt in collaboration with The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Sounds Modern adds a sonic dimension to the ideas represented in the galleries, and brings the artwork to life in the concert hall. McNutt also directs the Nova new music ensemble at the University of North Texas, where she teaches in the flute and composition areas.

Acknowledgments

Thanks to Karla Barthelmy-Hippolyte and John Nuckels for collaborating with us (since 2007!) to bring new sounds to the Modern. Our next event at the Modern will be on December 12. Keep up with the latest Sounds Modern news at www.soundsmodern.org, www.facebook.com/SoundsModern, and on Instagram @soundsmodern.