

The Museum of Modern Art

David Tudor and Composers Inside Electronics

October 21, 2019– January 5, 2020

MoMA's inaugural presentation in the Marie-Josée and Henry Kravis Studio highlights a landmark work in the collection: the sound installation *Rainforest V (variation 1)* (1973–2015), conceived by pianist and composer David Tudor (American, 1926-1996)—an early pioneer of electronic music and sound installation—and realized by Composers Inside Electronics (John Driscoll and Phil Edelstein, with contributions to the sound library by Matt Rogalsky). *Rainforest* as a concept originated from a sound score Tudor created for choreographer Merce Cunningham's 1968 dance *RainForest*, a multimedia performance featuring floating metallic balloons by Andy Warhol and flesh-colored costumes by Jasper Johns. Tudor would work with Composers Inside Electronics (CIE) (active 1973–present) on multiple iterations of *Rainforest* over the next several decades. *Rainforest V* evolved from *Rainforest IV*, a collaborative performance installation developed during a workshop at the New Music in New Hampshire festival in 1973.

Rainforest V is an immersive installation animated by a computer program that brings together 20 suspended sound sculptures into a rich sonic and visual environment. It is constructed with designed and found objects, such as a sculpture made of plastic tubing, an oil barrel, and a vintage four-foot-diameter computer hard disk. Each object is fitted with a sonic transducer to amplify its resonant frequencies, providing each object with a unique “voice.” The resulting installation presents a polyphonic chorus created through a collective artistic process.

Additionally, through a collaborative workshop of musicians and artists working across generations and approaches, CIE will create a new realization of Tudor's rarely performed *Forest Speech* (1976). In this piece, the performers will use the instrumental nature of the objects in *Rainforest V (variation 1)* to inspire new interpretations.

Forest Speak Performance Schedule

October Performances

Performers: Phil Edelstein, Marina Rosenfeld, Stefan Tcherepnin, Spencer Topel, Jeremy Toussaint-Baptiste

- Thursday, October 24 – 8:00 PM
- Saturday, October 26 – 8:00 PM
- Sunday, October 27 – 12:00 PM and 3:00 PM

November Performances

Performers: Lea Bertucci, John Driscoll, Ed Potokar, Margaret Anne Schedel, Phillip White

- Thursday, November 14 – 8:00 PM
- Saturday, November 16 – 8:00 PM
- Sunday, November 17 – 12:00 PM and 3:00 PM

December Performances

Performers: Ginny Benson, Cecilia Lopez, Daniel Neumann, Sergei Tcherepnin, C. Spencer Yeh

- Thursday, December 12 – 8:00 PM
- Saturday, December 14 – 8:00 PM
- Sunday, December 15 – 12:00 PM and 3:00 PM

SPONSORSHIP:

The exhibition is presented as part of The Hyundai Card Performance Series.

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