THE 2015–2016 SEASON

BLACK BOX
PERFORMANCE SERIES
CONTEMPORARY ARTS CENTER

WELCOME

Welcome to the 2015-2016 season, our fourth year of the Black Box Performance Series. Each year brings an exhilarating new opportunity to share with Cincinnati and the region an impressive and diverse selection of contemporary live art. This season we have increased the number of performances and multiple-night engagements, providing more chances than ever to experience something new with us.

The dynamic music heard as part of the Black Box Performance Series has been a strong point of pride for the past four seasons. A new commitment to conceptual music presentations and projects of a unique vision will no doubt leave plenty of nights of intrigue for those with an urge to be at the forefront of progressive music. Building upon last season's introduction of dance, we will also present a powerful program of movement-focused performances featuring fiercely contemporary, choreographed works that stretch preconceived definitions of dance.

While the shows may change, the performance space that gave our series a name remains as our home and basecamp. With the black box able to transform to accommodate each specific performance, audiences can expect to walk into an entirely new environment with every visit. We hope you'll come early for each show occurring on-site to explore four floors of CAC exhibitions, and share in conversation inside our newly renovated Kaplan Hall. Grab a coffee or drink at our incredible in-house café, Collective CAC, and enjoy yourself at the hub for the creative community in Cincinnati.

A consistent thread throughout all of our seasons is our drive to keep audiences surprised and excited. We are tireless in our research and development of our performance program, dedicated to introducing Cincinnati audiences to impressive artists that are contributing to the contemporary performance landscape in fascinating and relevant ways. We hope our audiences continue to grow with us. Take a look at the shows on offer, make your must-see picks, and maybe check something out that's a bit unfamiliar. Be adventurous — just as you expect us to be!

Thanks to the Haile Foundation for their generous investment in our performance program and to sponsors Ken and Christine Jones.

Drew Klein
Performance Curator

2015–2016 PERFORMANCES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2015
VICKY CHOW & TRISTAN PERICH *SURFACE IMAGE*

OCTOBER 9, 2015
HELADO NEGRO *NO LOVE CAN CUT OUR KNIFE IN TWO*

OCTOBER 16 & 18, 2015
EDDY KWON *VIOLENCE + a r c h i p e l a g o*

NOVEMBER 16 – 19, 2015
JENS LEKMAN *GHOSTWRITING*

NOVEMBER 20, 2015
JENS LEKMAN *LIVE*
WITH MYCINCINNATI'S AMBASSADOR ENSEMBLE

JANUARY 30, 2016
TANYA TAGAQ *NANOOK OF THE NORTH*

FEBRUARY 18 – 19, 2016
DANA MICHEL *YELLOW TOWEL*

MARCH 2 – 4, 2016
OKWUI OKPOKWASILI *BRONX GOTHIC*

APRIL 15 – 16, 2016
TETSUYA UMEDA *IT WAS MOVING AT FIRST*

APRIL 28, 2016
SAUL WILLIAMS & MIVOS QUARTET
NO ONE EVER DOES

MAY 18 – 20, 2016
CAMPO / PIETER AMPE & GUILHERME GARRIDO
STILL STANDING YOU

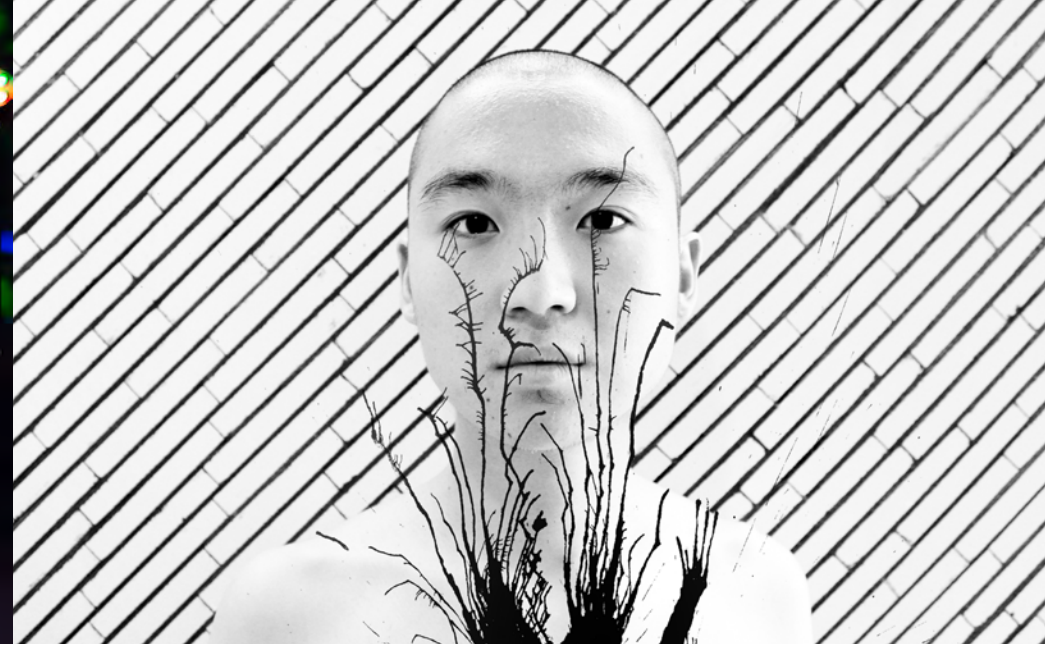
VICKY CHOW & TRISTAN PERICH
SURFACE IMAGE

SEPTEMBER 10, 2015
$12 MEMBERS / $15 GENERAL

Through a string of groundbreaking works pairing acoustic instruments with handmade 1-bit electronics, Tristan Perich has transformed the way in which traditional forms of composition can be enhanced and reinvigorated by the aesthetic simplicity of math, physics, and code. *Surface Image* is a stunning marriage of Perich's inspired electronic aesthetic and pianist Vicky Chow's nuanced yet fiercely virtuosic playing. Chow, a member of New York's preeminent Bang on a Can All-Stars and "one of the new stars of new music" (*Los Angeles Times*), intertwines her dynamic playing with a sublime flurry of dazzling 1-bit sounds that simultaneously entangle and unravel over the hour long journey. The line between electric and organic is artistically blurred, as the simple hand-wired electronics fuse with the individual notes of the piano on the same, expansive plane.

Co-presented with University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music at CCM Cohen Theater.

"A masterpiece of (Post) Romantic proportions: an epic struggle between man and machine, pushing the piano beyond the limits of playability. There are moments of breakneck virtuosity and profound lyricism, beauty and menace. It is both an alien landscape and one that's eerily familiar."
– Feast of Music



HELADO NEGRO

NO LOVE CAN CUT OUR KNIFE IN TWO

OCTOBER 9, 2015

$12 MEMBERS / $15 GENERAL

Helado Negro is the moniker of Roberto Carlos Lange, a child of Ecuadorian immigrants who has synthesized the Latin influences he heard growing up in South Florida, his experience with various rock outfits, modern electronic beats and work with progressive classical composers, forming the hazily upbeat, groundbreaking music he is known for today. With *No Love Can Cut Our Knife In Two*, Lange presents a new work with costuming and movement culminating from a year of choreography workshopped with local volunteers each night of his 42 city tour. Handmade, amorphous, full-bodied cloaks of metallic silver tinsel will transform Lange's collaborators into androgynous, kinetic sculptures that evoke furred textures of mammalian warmth while reflecting the light and color of the environment.

Dreamy, non-tempo, drone-like movements float against the rhythms of Lange's sonic compositions; rather than following the music as a map, the figures create a distinct layer with an emotional tenor that is both playful and melancholic. Inspired by science fiction (the performance's title sourced from Isaac Asimov's "Runaround,") and the choreographed geometries of Bauhaus artist Oskar Schlemmer's *Triadic Ballet*, Lange abstracts the figure, mechanizing the emotive human body into a modern form while conjuring a sense of mystery.

"Helado Negro creates a sonic landscape that reflects 21st century Latin America." – **NPR**

EDDY KWON

VIOLENCE + a r c h i p e l a g o

OCTOBER 16 & 18, 2015

$12 MEMBERS / $15 GENERAL

Cincinnati violinist/composer Eddy Kwon returns to the Black Box Performance Series with two stunning pieces performed over two evenings.

The night begins with the world premiere of *VIOLENCE*, a multi-media work for electro-acoustic ensemble. With careful attention to musical structure, personnel, instrumentation and ensemble dynamics, Kwon dissects the many ways in which violence is created, tolerated, expressed, internalized and (mis)understood. Inspired and informed by the writings, ideas and lives of some of the world's most impassioned revolutionaries, the work acts as both a reflection on, and demonstration of, the violent complex that shapes our American experience.

The second part of the evening will see the encore CAC presentation of *a r c h i p e l a g o*. Originally performed as part of our 2014 Summer Series, a platform for exciting new works for regional artists, Kwon drew on inspiration from Eric K M Clark's Deprivation Music to compose the piece. Performed by a string quartet, each musician's score is the exact same piece of music. However, a variety of conflicts confuse their senses with a complete absence of aural and visual awareness. By disrupting the dynamic of ensemble performers, experimenting with total sensory deprivation, and playing with perceptions of what a composition is and isn't, *a r c h i p e l a g o* is a challenging and exhilarating experience for audience and performers alike.

JENS LEKMAN
GHOSTWRITING

NOVEMBER 16 – 19, 2015

Jens Lekman, born and reared in Gothenburg, Sweden, is a songwriter, adventurer and retired bingo hall employee. Across thirteen EPs and four albums of critical acclaim, Jens has repurposed the world's great, lost pop hooks of past and present into songs of his own-making, breathing into them his droll sense of humor.

With *Ghostwriting*, Jens seeks to turn your personal stories into song. Following a public call for story submissions, a diverse collection will be chosen with selected storytellers sitting down with Jens to share their tales of love, fear, and secrets. From there, Jens and his band will assemble the details of each conversation and quickly construct a pop song related to the shared moment. Once written, the songs will be immediately recorded and released online to the masses, each one serving as a celebration of the moments that shape us, and the world.

Ghostwriting comes as an extension of Jens' year-long commitment to write and record a new song for each week of 2015. These "post cards" are shared thoughts and experiences that invite the public into his artistic process as he assembles a catalogue reflecting where each week of the year has found him, both creatively and personally. For *Ghostwriting*, Jens reverses this role, offering an interested ear and megaphone for the idiosyncratic stories of everyday life.

Ghostwriting is presented in partnership with Göteborg International Biennial for Contemporary Art (GIBCA).

GIBCA

LIVE, WITH MYCINCINNATI'S AMBASSADOR ENSEMBLE

NOVEMBER 20, 2015
$15 MEMBERS / $20 GENERAL

To culminate the week of working with others' stories as part of *Ghostwriting*, Jens will take the stage to perform his own songs upon which he has built his fan-base and reputation. For this special engagement, Jens will be collaborating with MYCincinnati's Ambassador Ensemble, a string sextet of young Price Hill musicians led by Assistant Director, and 2015-2016 Black Box Series performer, Eddy Kwon. With string arrangements prepared by the legendary composer Van Dyke Parks, as well as new arrangements by Kwon, the Ambassador Ensemble will work alongside Jens to perform some of his popular favorites with gorgeous accompaniment, creating an unbelievable marriage of their youthful energy and his effortless showmanship.

"There are many reasons why we love Jens Lekman's music, but perhaps the most endearing one is his charming storytelling ability. Throughout his career, the Swedish songwriter has tapped into a wide range of clever witticisms, shining light on hopeless moments, unveiling meaning in seemingly trivial matters and finding humor in the things he can't control"

– Paste Magazine

TANYA TAGAQ
NANOOK OF THE NORTH

JANUARY 30, 2016
$18 MEMBERS / $23 GENERAL

Canadian vocalist Tanya Tagaq can capture the most ethereal moments of desire, or find the deepest, huskiest, beating pulse, with her voice and breath. In her Ohio premiere, the Polaris Music Prize winner and two-time Juno Award nominee uses her intense vocalizations based on Inuit throat singing traditions to reclaim the controversial 1922 silent film *Nanook of the North*. With live percussion and guitar accompaniment, Tagaq's innovative vocals and deep sense of Arctic life work to create a powerful soundscape of authentic emotion against the film's silent images of life in an early 20th-century Inuit community in Northern Canada.

Tanya Tagaq in concert with *Nanook of the North* was commissioned by TIFF Bell Lightbox as part of its film retrospective *First Peoples Cinema: 1500 Nations, One Tradition*. *Nanook of the North* film is used courtesy of The Flaherty.

"It's modern dance meets modern art, narrated by an ancient voice... the best musical performance any of us had ever seen"

– Vice Music

DANA MICHEL
YELLOW TOWEL

FEBRUARY 18 – 19, 2016
$12 MEMBERS / $15 GENERAL

As a child, Dana Michel would drape a yellow towel on her head in an attempt to emulate the blonde girls at school. As an adult, she now revisits the imaginary world of her alter-ego in a performative ritual free of cover-ups or censorship. Blending austerity and absurdity, she digs into black culture stereotypes, turning them inside out to see whether she can relate. We witness with fascination her allowing a strange creature to emerge from this excavation in a slow and disconcerting metamorphosis. Strongly influenced by the aesthetics of fashion, music videos, queer culture and comedy, Dana Michel quickly stood out as an emerging dance artist. With *Yellow Towel*, she explores new creation territories and most decidedly asserts herself as an artist to watch.

Yellow Towel is a co-production of Festival TransAmériques and Studio 303 and was developed through residencies with Compagnie Marie Chouinard, MAI, Le Chien Perdu, Usine C, Circuit-Est centre chorégraphique, Studio 303 and Agora de la Danse. The creation of *Yellow Towel* was additionally supported by Conseil des Arts et des Lettres de Quebec, Canada Council for the Arts, Cirque du Soleil Cultural Action program and MAI. Preparation for performances at American Realness received administrative support from Daniel Léveillé danse company (Montréal, QC) as part of its touring sponsorship project.

"This show is very personal and deliciously funny in an offbeat way. It confirms the talent of an artist who refuses to compromise and dares to invent her own language"

– Voir

OKWUI OKPOKWASILI
BRONX GOTHIC

MARCH 2 – 4, 2016
$15 MEMBERS / $20 GENERAL

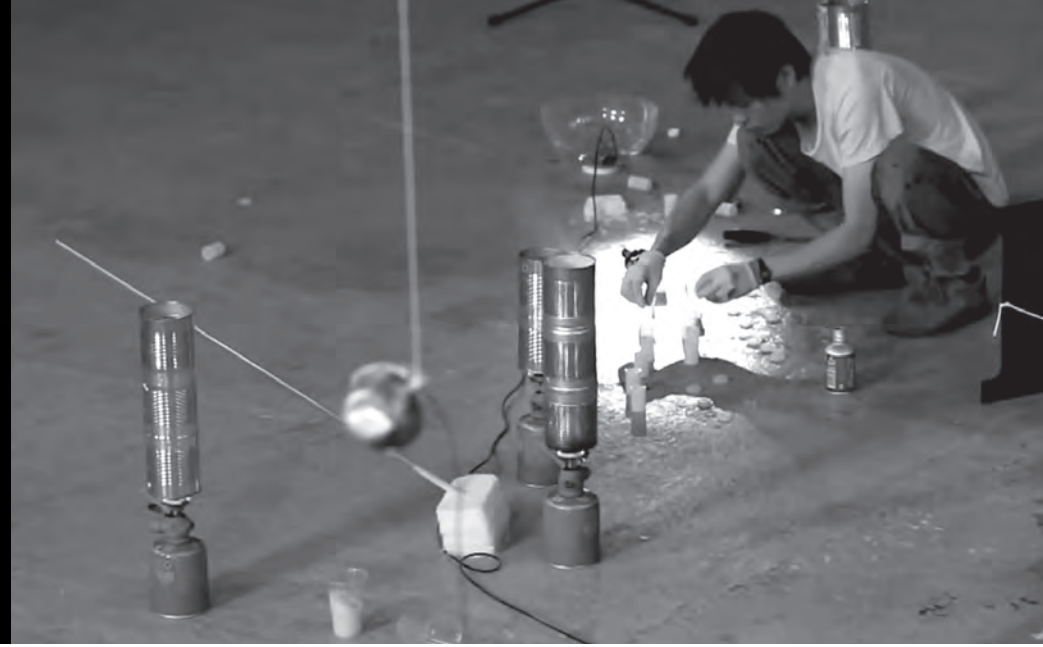
Orchard Beach, Nathan's hot dogs, and Whitney Houston's hair are all part of the landscape in Okwui Okpokwasili's *Bronx Gothic*. At the intersection of theater, dance, and visual art installation, *Bronx Gothic* gives palatable force to the charged relationship between two girls on the verge of adolescence in 1980s outer-borough New York City. Their lives are revealed with unflinching honesty as clandestine, sex-saturated notes are passed between them. Okpokwasili's unforgettable, intensely physical performance pushes against extremes in this partially-true chronicle of one woman's past. Drawing inspiration from Victorian-era novels and West African griot storytelling, *Bronx Gothic* reveals a dark and powerful tale of sexual self-discovery, the (brown) body in transformation – and the humor, the love, the strangeness, and even the terror that accompany it.

The presentation of *Bronx Gothic* was made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with additional support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

This presentation is supported by the Arts Midwest Touring Fund, a program of Arts Midwest that is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional contributions from Ohio Arts Council and General Mills Foundation.

"A breakout success – evocative and fresh, revealing a voice as compelling as her stage presence"

– Village Voice



TETSUYA UMEDA
IT WAS MOVING AT FIRST

APRIL 15 – 16, 2016
$12 MEMBERS / $15 GENERAL

It hisses, rolls, bubbles, growls and ticks. Japanese sound and visual artist Tetsuya Umeda turns his working space into an unpredictable laboratory. As a physicist he messes with time, light and sound. Inspired by the location and by natural scientific phenomena, he indulges in small-scale experiments based on installations that consist of common, garden and kitchen equipment, and which work on hydraulic power, gravity, electricity or steam. The outcome of such experiments is not always certain, so Umeda's investigations in space invariably produce unique performances with their own individual sound, form and time span. Natural science has never been as theatrical as this.

Touring support for Tetsuya Umeda is provided by the Japan Foundation through the Performing Arts JAPAN program.

"Tetsuya Umeda's installations are as much about the sounds as they are about the arrangement of everyday items he uses. Umeda's main work is the object's performance, which he helps orchestrate, but is never in control of"

– The Japan Times

SAUL WILLIAMS & MIVOS QUARTET

NO ONE EVER DOES

APRIL 28, 2016
$15 MEMBERS / $20 GENERAL

The adventurous Mivos Quartet, hailed as "one of America's most daring and ferocious new-music ensembles" (*The Chicago Reader*), joins legendary poet and performer Saul Williams for a memorable night of new music. Williams, known for his distinctive marriage of "firebrand politics with metaphysical word play" (AV Club), presents the Ohio premiere of *NGH WHT*, a collaboration with composer Thomas Kessler. *NGH WHT* integrates the sounds of a string quartet with Williams' singular voice to create an organic and provocative interaction between hip hop and contemporary classical styles. The program will also feature new work by composers Ted Hearne and Black Box Performance Series alum Jace Clayton (DJ/rupture), as well as new solo and collaborative work by Williams and Mivos, including a broad new interpretation of Williams' *No One Ever Does*.

Portions of this engagement were originally developed as part of the 2014 Ecstatic Music Festival.

"Hip hop's poet laureate"
– CNN on Saul Williams

"This vital young New York string quartet embraces toothy modernism with punk-rock verve"
– The New York Times
on Mivos Quartet

CAMPO / PIETER AMPE & GUILHERME GARRIDO

STILL STANDING YOU

MAY 18 – 20, 2016
$15 MEMBERS / $20 GENERAL

The incendiary Belgian-Portuguese duo Pieter Ampe and Guilherme Garrido burst on to the European dance scene in 2007, and they have toured internationally to wild acclaim ever since. With *Still Standing You*, they test the limits of friendship, rivalry and their own bodies in a rough-and-tumble montage of dance, gymnastics and wrestling. Daring, discomfiting and darkly hilarious, Still Standing You is an astounding take on masculinity, aggression and tenderness.

Are they friends, lovers, brothers or rivals? It's impossible to say, but through these power struggles and acts of rebellion, the two find the far reaches of their physical limits, their comfort zones, and the strength of their bond. *This show contains nudity.*

Produced by CAMPO, Co-produced by STUK, Leuven and Buda, Kortrijk

"Still Standing You is a prime example of modern-day choreography's most popular themes: testing the audience's empathy, gender criticism and measuring the representation of human relationships"
– Der Standard

ADDITIONAL INFO

For more information about our performances and to purchase tickets, please visit our website:
contemporaryartscenter.org

CONNECT AND SHARE

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#cacblackbox

All showtimes are 8PM unless otherwise stated. For performances in the CAC performance space, come early and enjoy a drink at Collective CAC before the show.

Some performances take place at venues other than the Contemporary Arts Center, please take note when purchasing tickets.

The Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr. US Bank N.A. FOUNDATION

The 2015-2016 Black Box Performance Series is generously supported by the Haile Foundation and Ken and Christine Jones.

JOIN TODAY

MEMBERS RECEIVE DISCOUNTED TICKETS AND ADMISSION

The Contemporary Arts Center has a long and rich history of engaging audiences and bringing diverse members of our community together to enjoy shared experiences around art; to investigate creative possibilities; and to support and celebrate the extraordinary and experimental. Be part of this incredible story.

Benefits include:

- Free admission to all the CAC exhibitions and general programming
- Invitations to special Members Only events
- Exclusive early access on Opening Night, prior to the public
- 10% discount at the CAC Store, featuring the most unique gifts in Cincinnati, and our café - *Collective CAC*

Visit our website for information:
contemporaryartscenter.org/join

C/AC
Contemporary
Arts Center

NEW HOURS

C/AC GALLERIES & STORE

SAT–MON	10am–4pm
TUES	CLOSED (Store open 10am-4pm)
WED*–FRI	10am–9pm

COLLECTIVE C/AC & LOBBY

SAT–SUN	9am-3pm
MON–TUE	7am-4pm
WED–FRI	7am-9pm

The CAC is closed Thanksgiving, Christmas & New Year's Day.

ADMISSION

CAC Members & Children under 5 years old FREE
Adults $7.50
Seniors (60+)/Students & Teachers $5.50

*Admission is FREE on Wednesday nights 5–9pm, thanks to Macy's

Contemporary
Arts Center

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