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Drumm Machine

Spec is a collaboration between the artist-duo SIMPARCH (Steven Badgett and Matthew Lynch) and musician Kevin Drumm. As sculptors turned carpenters, SIMPARCH is known for its architecturally scaled works that are often wry commentary on conventional building practices. For this particular project, SIMPARCH was asked to address The Society's unwieldy acoustics and create conditions favorable to the presentation of an audio work by Drumm who specializes in experimental and electronic music. SIMPARCH's solution was simple but extreme—install a full dropped ceiling. But how low?

The sculptural component of Spec consists of a dropped ceiling arched to form a long, semi-circular barrel vault. Its hulking dimensions measure 10 feet in height, 20 feet in width and 72 feet in length making Spec a corridor-like room within a room that comfortably accommodates upwards of 80 people. Between the hundreds of foil-backed ceiling tiles, many yards of conduit, aluminum lighting canisters and an elaborate network of galvanized steel wire, Spec's exterior—fully visible in the round—resembles a space station. Spec's interior—accessible from both the east and west end—is a cool white tiled tunnel, a work of Robert Rymanesque formalism cum corporate sobriety. This relatively hushed environment is replete with recessed lighting and speakers running its entire length. As a sculptural volume, Spec creates tunnel vision. Perspective becomes an architectural axis of fate, one whose history extends from the Roman arch to the United Airlines Terminal all via the Quonset Hut, which, as humble Midwesterners, SIMPARCH cites as formal inspiration. With even more a wink and nod they also cite the Native American longhouse to which they pay homage through communal seating in the form of a 72-foot, wooden bench that bisects the space and doubles as the world's longest subwoofer.

Spec's functional demands are derived from the cerebral domain of listening. In this instance, Spec will feature a work by Kevin Drumm commissioned specifically for this structure and created in situ. Drumm, a Chicago native, is one of electronic and experimental music's noteworthy talents. He has performed with ensembles of various sizes and has released numerous solo and duet recordings. His sensibility is rooted in an analytic approach to the broader electrified soundscape and is not confined to electronic music as such. Drumm began as a table-top guitarist. Laying the electric guitar flat on a table top, Drumm treated the instrument as a conduit for registering all manner of touch and the presence of its own internal electrical current. Amplifier buzz, hum, and static were the dominant part of his vocabulary making him is one of the few musicians for whom the addition of a laptop computer to his repertoire of instruments is in fact natural. Drumm's skill as an improviser has earned him distinction within the field of electronic music. His sensibility may be analytic, but his findings are the result of a sensitive and subtle ear that transcends the divide between electronic and acoustic sounds. He brings his skills to group settings in a manner no different than any other musician. As an exhibition, however, Spec will be given over to the act of listening rather than performing. Just as Le Corbusier characterized the house as a machine for living, SIMPARCH characterizes Spec as a machine for listening, a Drumm machine in the truest sense.

RELATED EVENTS

All events are FREE and open to the public

**Opening reception and talk with the artist
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 4:00-7:00 PM
TALK FROM 5:00 TO 6:00 PM**

This event will take place in Cobb Hall Room 307, directly below the gallery. FREE.

**Concert
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 8:00 PM
ENSEMBLE NOAMNESIA, TERI KAPSALIS
AND LOU MALLOZZI**

Music by John Cage, featuring the works "Lecture on Nothing" (performed by Teri Kapsalis) and "Variations II" (performed by Ensemble Noamnesia), also short audio performance works by Lou Mallozzi. This concert will take place in the gallery. FREE.

**Concert
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 8:00 PM
IAN PACE (PIANO)**

British pianist Ian Pace performs the works of Salvatore Sciarrino. FREE.

**Concert
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 8:00 PM
ENSEMBLE NOAMNESIA**

and guests Vincent Royer (viola) and Paulo Alvares (piano)
Chamber and small ensemble works of Salvatore Sciarrino. This concert will take place in the gallery. FREE.

**Concert
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 8:00 PM
ENSEMBLE NOAMNESIA**

with Julia Bentley (voice).
Chamber and small ensemble works of Salvatore Sciarrino, including the US premiere of "Infinito nero" for 8 instruments and voice. This concert will take place in the gallery. FREE.

**Concert
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 8:00 PM
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 8:00 PM
EFZEG**

(Boris Hauf, saxophone and computer, Burkhard Stangl, guitar & electronics, Martin Siewert, guitar & electronics and Dieter Kovicks, turntables). This concert will take place in the gallery. FREE.

**Concert
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 7:00 PM
Franz Hautzinger (quarter tone trumpet),
Gene Coleman (bass clarinet)
and Ensemble Noamnesia.**

Solo and ensemble compositions by Franz Hautzinger including US premiere of "CloudCut" for 9 instruments by Gene Coleman. This concert will take place in the gallery. FREE.



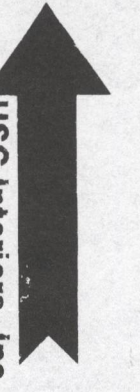
Spec

an acoustic collaboration between Kevin Drumm and SIMPARCH

September 16 - October 28 2001

Opening reception: September 16, 2001, 4:00-7:00pm
featuring a talk with the artist at 5pm

Hello
you will find a bio in this poster.
Cd is arriving separately via Mega Records
Thank you
Kevin Drumm

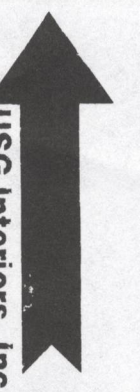


**The Renaissance Society
at The University of Chicago**
5811 South Ellis Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60637
Phone: (773) 702-8670
<http://www.renaissancesociety.org>

Non-Profit Organization
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Permit No. 2336

Museum Hours:
Tuesday - Friday: 10 am - 5 pm
Saturday, Sunday: 12 - 5 pm
Closed Mondays

The Renaissance Society



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This exhibition, which inaugurates The Society's 86th season and its 22nd in the Bergman Gallery, is dedicated to the memory of Edwin Bergman. Through his commitment to new and provocative art, Ed championed all The Society stands for. We remain grateful for his outstanding example, friendship, service and support.

Spec has been made possible through generous support from USG Corporation and Chicago Area Building Specialties. Additional support has been received from the CityArts Program of The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, a municipal agency; the Dorothy and Gaylord Donnelley Foundation; the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; The LLWW Foundation; The Peter Norton Family Foundation; The Pritzker Foundation; The Sara Lee Foundation; The Siragusa Foundation; WPWR - TV Channel 50 Foundation and our membership. Indirect support has been received from The Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency offering general operating support to the nation's museums.

American Airlines is the official airline sponsor of The Renaissance Society's 2001-2002 season.



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