

MEDIA RELEASE: December 2007



Forma arts and media producers

Programme Jan – Mar 08

Forma is one of Europe's leading production agencies for innovative, genre-defying art. Our Spring 08 programme of cross-artform productions encompasses two major exhibitions and a public realm project.

Forma is producing two major projects for AV Festival 08, which takes place across North East England from 28 Feb – 9 Mar 08 and this year explores the theme of broadcast:

- Now Hear This presents a series of publicly-sited audio works, bringing unexpected listening experiences to Middlesbrough Town Centre as part this year's festival. Commissions include work by British artists **Marcus Coates & Zoe Irvine**.
- Renowned BBC sound recordist and experimental composer **Chris Watson** recreates the incredible soundscape of the South American Rainforest in a major new work presented within the enclosed botanical environment of Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens.

Pioneering electronic composer and artist **Ryoji Ikeda** presents a first solo exhibition in Japan at Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media from 1 Mar – 25 May 08. The show features a major new installation, alongside existing work from his datamatics series.

Now Hear This [various artists]

28 Feb – 8 Mar, artists' audio works, various public spaces, Middlesbrough, AV Festival 08, UK

Forma is working with AV Festival 08 to commission a series of site-specific audio works to be presented in public spaces across Middlesbrough as part of this year's festival, which explores the theme of broadcast.

Encompassing several new commissions, Now Hear This features audio works by artists selected for their various interests in the complex relationships between sound, space and location. Featuring new work by British artists Marcus Coates and Zoe Irvine, projects will adopt diverse modes of broadcast and public address, offering a range of unusual listening experiences and unexpected sonic interventions into our everyday urban environment.

Curated and produced by Forma
Commissioned by AV Festival 08

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Chris Watson – Whispering in the Leaves

29 Feb – 9 Mar, Sound Installation at Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens, AV Festival 08, UK

As part of AV Festival 08, sound recordist and artist Chris Watson will produce a major new work that recreates the sonic environment of the South American Rainforest within the enclosed botanical environment of the Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens.

Watson is renowned for both his early pioneering experimental music practice as founding member of Cabaret Voltaire and the Hafler Trio, and his award-winning sound recording work with David Attenborough on several acclaimed BBC TV Wildlife series, including the Life of Mammals and the Life of Birds.

For AV Festival 08, Watson has created a powerful new sound work derived from his extensive archive of wildlife and on-location recordings in Central and South America - habitats that host over half of the planet's wildlife. Diffused through the tropical foliage of the Winter Gardens, which is home to over 2,000 flowers and plants, the surround soundtrack of wildlife dawn and dusk choruses will be transmitted at hourly intervals throughout the day for 15-20 minute durations – the approximate time taken in the rainforest for the transitions from darkness into light, and from daylight to dark. The sound pieces feature the calls and voices of thousands of species, including the howls and shrieks of black howler and spider monkeys, the musicality of diverse birdsong and the shimmering and hissing of tree frogs and cicadas.

A highly sensory and captivating experience, Whispering in the Leaves is a remarkable demonstration of the power of sound recordings and natural history broadcast to transport us to far flung, inaccessible and often extraordinary locations.

Produced by Forma
Commissioned by AV Festival 08

Chris Watson - Live performance, Thurs 6 Mar, 8.30pm, Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens

Chris Watson performs a live sound mix in which a three or four hour period across late afternoon, sunset and into the night will be compressed into around twenty minutes. Featuring recordings of a tropical thunderstorm and ending with the deep, lush sounds of the nocturnal insect chorus, the performance will create an intense auditory narrative for the audience.

Free, booking essential as capacity is limited, to book a place contact info@avfestival.co.uk

Produced by Forma
Commissioned by AV Festival 08

Ryoji Ikeda – datamatics [solo exhibition]

1 Mar – 25 May, Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media, JP

For his first solo exhibition in Japan, renowned electronic composer and artist Ryoji Ikeda presents new and existing works from his datamatics series.

In the artist's work, music, time and space are shaped by mathematical methods as Ikeda explores sound and vision as sensation, pulling apart their physical properties to reveal their complex relationships with human perception.

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The datamatics series is a long-term programme of moving image, sculptural, sound and new media works that take data as their theme and material, exploring the ways in which abstracted views of reality - data - are used to encode, understand and control the world.

This solo exhibition presents the recent works data.film [nº1-a] and data.tron, alongside a major new installation commissioned by YCAM, entitled test pattern [nº1]. The exhibition opens with a live performance of Ikeda's critically acclaimed concert piece datamatics [ver. 2.0].

Forthcoming from Forma, Summer 2008:

- Solo exhibitions of Australian artist **Lynette Wallworth's** work in Europe and the US
- Major presentations of **Ryoji Ikeda's** installation works in Europe
- The launch of a new collaborative film project by **Gina Czarnecki**
- Further international touring of the **Charles Atlas/Fennesz** collaborative concert work
- Extensive international touring of **Ikeda's** datamatics [ver. 2.0] audiovisual concert

Further details to be announced early 2008

For further press information or images please contact Hannah Barnes, Senior Communications Manager, Forma on +44 (0)207 837 7777 | hb@forma.org.uk

Notes to Editors:

Forma Arts and Media Producers

Forma is one of Europe's leading production agencies for high quality, interdisciplinary contemporary art. Collaborating with some of today's most interesting artists, it produces, tours and publishes groundbreaking new projects that seamlessly combine diverse media. Its programme pioneers new hybrid forms of music, visual art, film, new media, dance, theatre and live art.

Forma's international programme encompasses single concerts and large-scale tours for leading performing and visual arts venues and festivals; one-off exhibitions in established visual arts spaces; screenings at film and new media festivals; and major public realm projects that engage with particular places.

Forma collaborates with internationally renowned artists as well as equally interesting artists at earlier stages of their careers. The cross-artform projects Forma produces, tours and publishes are characterised by powerful new ideas, high production values and technical innovation. Often these qualities result from the unique nature of Forma's collaboration with artists, developing projects and relationships over extended periods of time.

Recent projects have included collaborations with artists Antony and the Johnsons, Charles Atlas, Juan Cruz, Graham Dolphin, Christian Fennesz, Doug Fishbone, Carsten Nicolai, Lone Twin, Ryuichi Sakamoto and Jane and Louise Wilson. The company also exclusively represents the work of Ryoji Ikeda, Lynette Wallworth and Gina Czarnecki, producing and touring their work worldwide.

For further information, please visit www.forma.org.uk

Forma is supported by Arts Council England

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