

## *Basement Performances*

Curated by John Zorn

Fridays and Saturdays, January 29–February 13, 2016

### The Lab

For further information and images, please contact  
Molly Gross, *Communications Director*, The Drawing Center  
212 219 2166 x119 | [mgross@drawingcenter.org](mailto:mgross@drawingcenter.org)

December 8, 2015



Raha Raissnia, *Longing*,  
2014. 16 mm film, color, 20-  
minute loop, optical sound.  
Dimensions variable. Edition  
1 of 5 + 1AP. Courtesy of the  
artist and Miguel Abreu  
Gallery, New York.

New York –The Drawing Center’s upcoming *Basement Performances*, curated by renowned composer and performer John Zorn, will bring together improvised music with expanded cinema. On Fridays and Saturdays in late January and early February, six nights of cutting-edge multimedia events will take place in The Lab. The series will feature some of Downtown New York’s most adventurous musicians and visual artists including: Okkyung Lee and Andrew Lampert; Raha Raissnia and Panagiotis Mavridis; Bill Laswell; Kenny Wollesen and Julia Elsas; Ela Troyano and Uzi Parnes; and Ikue Mori. The *Basement Performances* is produced by Brett Littman, Executive Director.

John Zorn says about the *Basement Performances*: “The performance series is modelled on the radical events that took place in New York’s Downtown during the ’70s and ’80s, when non-traditional venues supported new forms of experimentation in art, performance, and music. Some of my fondest memories of music, dance, theater, and film reach back to that time, when small cutting-edge, underground events flourished in SoHo and East Village galleries, basements, and ad-hoc performance spaces. In the spirit of these intimate experiences, I am proud to curate this series for The Drawing Center on Wooster Street, just a stone’s throw from the Three Mercer Street Store, the Cinematheque, Collective for Living Cinema, Ontological Hysterical Theatre, and many other small spaces that supported the ’70s avant-garde, and are now all but forgotten.”

*Basement Performances*

Six Friday and Saturday evenings beginning January 29, 2016

Friday, January 29 at 7:30pm

Tickets \$10 via [BrownPaperTickets.com](http://BrownPaperTickets.com)

Okkyung Lee (composer, cellist) and Andrew Lampert (artist, film archivist)  
Performing a site-specific piece with multiple projections and live music

Okkyung Lee combines classical training with improvisation and extended techniques. She has released more than twenty albums and has collaborated with artists ranging from Thurston Moore to Christian Marclay.

Andrew Lampert is the Curator of Collections at Anthology Film Archives in New York. He works in film, video, performance, and live multiple-projection pieces that are presented as short-term installations and intimate events.

Saturday, January 30 at 7:30pm

Tickets \$10 via [BrownPaperTickets.com](http://BrownPaperTickets.com)

Raha Raissnia (artist) and Panagiotis Mavridis (artist, musical instrument maker)  
Performing with multiple looped 35 and 16mm film projections and installation with live music

Raha Raissnia is an Iranian-born artist represented by Miguel Abreu Gallery in New York. Her work is influenced by the historic avant-garde filmmakers and extends across drawing, painting, and film.

Panagiotis Mavridis is a Greek-born artist best known for his original musical instruments that combine electronic and acoustic principles. He is the former director and owner of Qbox Gallery in Athens.

Friday, February 5 at 7:30pm

Tickets \$20 via [BrownPaperTickets.com](http://BrownPaperTickets.com)

Bill Laswell (record producer, bassist)  
Performing to Godfrey Reggio's *Koyaanisqatsi*

As a bassist and musician, Bill Laswell's unique sensibility integrates reggae, ambient noise, and jazz, as well as a range of eclectic influences. Since the late '70s, Laswell has participated in approximately three thousand recording projects. His collaborations with other musicians bring together artists from diverse spheres, and in the past he has worked with Yoko Ono, Iggy Pop, Laurie Anderson, Brian Eno, The Ramones, Sting, Julian Schnabel, and Whitney Houston, among others.

Saturday, February 6 at 7:30pm

Tickets \$10 via [BrownPaperTickets.com](http://BrownPaperTickets.com)

Kenny Wollesen (percussionist) and Julia Elsas (artist)

Kenny Wollesen and Julia Elsas will create an intimate sonic and visual performance with handmade instruments and an object-based installation.

Kenny Wollesen is a percussionist and instrument maker. He is the mastermind behind Wollesonic Laboratories, a channel for his original experimental instruments and Sonic Messages.

Julia Elsas is a printmaker, ceramicist, instrument builder, and professor.

Friday, February 12 at 7:30pm

Tickets \$10 via [BrownPaperTickets.com](http://BrownPaperTickets.com)

Ela Troyano (filmmaker, actress) and Uzi Parnes (photographer, performer)

Parnes and Troyano will work environmentally, presenting two works – *The Silence of Marcel Duchamp* with John Zorn's *BeuysBlock* as a soundtrack and a live film version of *Bubble People*, featuring legendary filmmaker Jack Smith along with Parnes and Polly Bradfield. Bradfield, one of downtown's earliest improvisers can be seen and heard on violin and record player. *Bubble People* Troyano's first film was shot at Parnes' loft Performances Staged and includes his environments and artworks.

Ela Troyano is an interdisciplinary filmmaker, born in Cuba and based in NYC. Most recently, *RECYCLING ATLANTIS*, an exhibition in collaboration with Uzi Parnes and Carmelita Tropicana in celebration of legendary filmmaker Jack Smith and his influence in NYC's downtown in the late 1970's and early 1980's was presented at the 80WSE Gallery in 2014.

Uzi Parnes is best known as a photographer of New York's performance artists, such as Jack Smith. His visual works integrate photography with multi-media performance.

Saturday, February 13 at 7:30pm

Tickets \$10 via [BrownPaperTickets.com](http://BrownPaperTickets.com)

Ikue Mori (improviser, composer)

Performing a new live visual and sound piece based on the Nathaniel Hawthorne tale "Pomegranate Seeds"

Ikue Mori started playing drums when she moved to New York City from Japan in 1977 and formed the seminal No Wave band DNA with Arto Lindsay and Tim Wright. In the mid '80s Mori employed drum machines in the unlikely context of improvised music and forged her own highly sensitive signature style. Throughout in '90s she has subsequently collaborated with numerous improvisers throughout the US, Europe, and Asia, while continuing to produce and record her own electronic music.

## ABOUT JOHN ZORN

Born and raised in New York City, composer/performer John Zorn has been a central figure in the Downtown scene since 1975, incorporating a wide variety of creative musicians into various compositional formats. His work is remarkably diverse and draws inspiration from art, literature, film, theater, philosophy, alchemy, and mysticism, as well as music. He founded the Tzadik label in 1995, runs the East Village performance space The Stone, and has edited and published seven volumes of musician's writings under the title Arcana.

## ABOUT THE DRAWING CENTER

The Drawing Center, a museum in Manhattan's SoHo district, explores the medium of drawing as primary, dynamic, and relevant to contemporary culture, the future of art and creative thought. Its activities, which are both multidisciplinary and broadly historical, include exhibitions; Open Sessions, a curated artist program encouraging community and collaboration; the Drawing Papers publication series; and education and public programs.

## LOCATION, HOURS & ACCESSIBILITY

35 Wooster Street between Broome and Grand Streets in SoHo, New York.  
Gallery hours are Wednesday-Sunday 12pm–6pm, Thursday, 12pm–8pm.  
Tickets: \$5 Adults, \$3 Students and seniors, Children under 12 are free, and free admission Thursdays 6-8pm.

The Drawing Center is wheelchair accessible.

212.219.2166 | [info@drawingcenter.org](mailto:info@drawingcenter.org) | [drawingcenter.org](http://drawingcenter.org)

FACEBOOK: [The Drawing Center](https://www.facebook.com/TheDrawingCenter)

TWITTER: [twitter.com/drawingcenter](https://twitter.com/drawingcenter)

INSTAGRAM: [instagram.com/drawingcenter](https://www.instagram.com/drawingcenter)

## AT THE DRAWING CENTER

<i>Richard Pousette-Dart: 1930s</i>	Through December 20, 2015
<i>Rashid Johnson: Anxious Men</i>	Through December 20, 2015
<i>Open Sessions 6</i>	Through December 20, 2015
<i>Louise Despont: Energy Scaffolds and Information Architecture</i>	January 22–March 20, 2016
<i>Jennifer Bartlett: Hospital</i>	January 22–March 20, 2016
<i>Basement Performances</i>	January 29–February 13, 2016
<i>“Please Make This Look Nice”</i>	February 19–March 20, 2016
<i>Drawing Dialogues: The Sol LeWitt Collection</i>	April 15–June 12, 2016
<i>2016 Prix Canson</i>	June 20–July 1, 2016

## Ongoing installations

<i>Abdelkader Benchamma: Representation of Dark Matter</i>	Through August 2016
<i>Rachel Goodyear: Restless Guests</i>	Through March 2016
<i>James Sheehan: Death of Malevich</i>	Through December 20, 2015

###