



**Harvard
University
Committee
on the Arts**

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**April 10–16
8:00 pm–10:30 pm**

Ah humanity!

Sound and video installation
by Ernst Karel, V er ena Paravel, and
Lucien Castaing-Taylor

Science Center Plaza

**HUCA
SPRING
2016**

April 9, 1:00 pm

**Bending
Toward Justice:
Improvisation,
Freedom,
and the Arts**

Symposium moderated
by Vijay Iyer

Harvard Art Museums

April 15–17

**HEAR WORD!
Naija Woman Talk True**

Directed by
Ifeoma Fafunwa

Harvard Dance Center

April 9, 1:00 pm

Bending Toward Justice: Improvisation, Freedom, and the Arts

Harvard Art Museums

Improvisation plays a central role in all of our lives; we might describe it as the way we do almost everything — not just certain kinds of music, but also ordinary speech, games and sports, politics and warfare, and most social interactions. In this symposium, we consider the power of individual and collective improvisation in/at/as moments of crisis, turmoil, or social change. Our panelists' perspectives from the arts disciplines will illuminate these political questions, as we attune our ears to the music of difference — the polyrhythms, counterpoints, cadences, and dissonances of highly charged human interaction.

The symposium, sponsored by HUCA, includes opening remarks from poet, theorist, and University of California Riverside Professor Fred Moten. Panelists include **Vijay Iyer**, Franklin D. and Florence Rosenblatt Professor of the Arts (moderator); **Danielle Goldman**, Assistant Professor of Dance at The New School Lang; **Daphne Brooks**, Professor of African American Studies and Theater Studies at Yale; **Wadada Leo Smith**, a composer and trumpeter who will be performing in the Fromm Players Concerts as the Eileen Southern Distinguished Visitor in the Department of Music; and **Matthew Leslie Santana**, a Harvard graduate student in ethnomusicology.

This symposium is given in conjunction with the **Fromm Players Concerts**, titled **Creative Music Convergences**, on April 7th and April 8th in John Knowles Paine Concert Hall, beginning at 7:30 pm. The April 7th concert features Vijay Iyer/Wadada Leo Smith duo, Nicole Mitchell/Tomeka Reid/Mike Reed trio, Okkyung Lee, and the Steve Lehman Octet. The April 8th concert features Craig Taborn, Wadada Leo Smith/Ikue Mori duo, Courtney Bryan, and the Tyshawn Sorey Double Trio. The concerts are sponsored by the Music Department and the Fromm Music Foundation at Harvard.

April 10–16
8:00 pm–10:30 pm

Ah humanity!

Science Center Plaza

Ah humanity! is a large-scale audio-video installation by the artists **Ernst Karel**, **Véréna Paravel**, and **Lucien Castaing-Taylor**. The Harvard University Committee on the Arts is sponsoring this week-long event, in which four channels of sound will be projected into the Plaza and a single channel of video onto the façade of the Science Center, every evening. *Ah humanity!* reflects on the fragility and folly of humanity in the age of the Anthropocene. Taking the 3/11/11 disaster of Fukushima as its point of departure, it evokes an apocalyptic vision of modernity, and our predilection for historical amnesia and futuristic flights of fancy. The images were shot on a telephone through a handheld telescope, at once close to and far from its subject, while the audio composition combines empty excerpts from Japanese genbaku and related film soundtracks, recordings from seismic laboratories, and location sound. Artist Ernst Karel will be mixing the film's soundtrack live on the Plaza on select evenings throughout the week.

Karel is Lecturer on Anthropology, Manager of the Sensory Ethnography Lab, and Assistant Director of the Film Study Center at Harvard. Paravel is an anthropologist and filmmaker in the Sensory Ethnography Lab. Castaing-Taylor is Professor of Visual Arts and Anthropology. Their previous collaborations include the 2012 film *Leviathan*.

Ah humanity! was made with support from F93 in Paris, and the Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Digital Arts and Humanities (DARTH), and the Harvard University Asia Center. It was produced in the Sensory Ethnography Lab, Harvard University.

The **Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies at Harvard** is sponsoring an accompanying **roundtable and reception** on Wednesday, April 13th, at 6:00 pm in CGIS South. Afterward, attendees are invited to experience the work on the Science Center Plaza.

April 15–17

HEAR WORD! Naija Woman Talk True

Harvard Dance Center

HEAR WORD! is a powerful piece of performance art that combines artistry, social commentary, and true-life stories of inequality and transformation, delivered by some of Nigeria's most talented actresses. The stories are based on real issues affecting the lives of women across Nigeria and examine the factors that limit their potential for independence, leadership, and meaningful contribution. *HEAR WORD!* bravely examines the cultural and societal norms that oppress and limit African women as it invites women to break the culture of silence, unite, challenge the status quo, and create solutions.

HEAR WORD! is directed by **Ifeoma Fafunwa** and stars **Taiwo Ajai-Lycett**, **Joke Silva**, **Bimbo Akintola**, **Omonor**, **Elvina Ibru**, **Ufuoma McDermott**, **Zara Udofia-Ejoh**, **Odenike**, **Rita Edward**, and **Debbie Ohiri**. It features some adapted monologues made available by the Kudirat Initiative for Democracy (KIND).

The production is presented by the Harvard Center for African Studies in association with the American Repertory Theater, the Division of Social Science, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the Harvard Dance Center, the Hutchins Center for African & African American Research, Harvard Law School, the Mahindra Humanities Center, the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, the Theater, Dance & Media Concentration at Harvard University, and the Harvard University Committee on the Arts. Already famous in Lagos, the two-week Cambridge engagement of this acclaimed play includes four performances, class visits, pop-ups and panel discussions with the cast, director, and experts from Harvard University.

Performances of *HEAR WORD!* will take place on Fri, Apr 15th at 7:30 pm; Sat, Apr 16th at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm; and Sun, Apr 17th at 2:00 pm.

Harvard University Committee on the Arts

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The Harvard University Committee on the Arts (HUCA), a university-wide body, is charged with advising the president and provost on developing policies and plans that will enhance the presence of the arts at the University and make the arts a central component of the University's educational mission.

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