



ARTIFACTS TRIO: ...AND THEN THERE'S THIS

FEBRUARY 27, 2021

5pm

presented by

REDCAT

Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater

California Institute of the Arts

CaLARTS

We gratefully acknowledge that we operate on the traditional lands of the Tongva, Tataviam, and Chumash peoples—including the Gabrieleño, Fernandeño, and Ventureño; members of the Takic and Chumashan language families; and other Indigenous peoples who made their homes in and around the area we now call Los Angeles.

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PROGRAM

B.K.	Steve McCall
In Response To	Tomeka Reid
Blessed	Nicole Mitchell
I'll Be Right Here Waiting	Steve McCall
Song for Helena	Tomeka Reid
Reflections	Nicole Mitchell
Pleasure Palace	Mike Reed
Light on The Path	Ed Wilkerson

ARTIFACTS TRIO

Tomeka Reid, Cello
Nicole Mitchell, Flute
Mike Reed, Drums

"Nicole Mitchell's flute and Tomeka Reid's cello met with Mike Reed's cymbal-heavy drumming to make an aqueous sound that allowed itself to be warped and melted and spread about by the room."

—Giovanni Russonello, *The New York Times*

"The cellist Tomeka Reid, from Chicago, has been one of the great energies of the past year in jazz: a melodic improviser with a natural, flowing sense of song and an experimenter who can create heat and grit with the texture of sound."

—Ben Ratliff, *The New York Times*

"[Nicole Mitchell is] a flutist who embodies the sunny optimism of California and Chicago's bold, creative spirit."

—Michael J. West, *Jazz Times*

"A multithreat musician who thrives as soloist, bandleader, presenter and global talent scout, [Mike] Reed has emerged as a center of gravity for music in Chicago (and beyond)."

—Howard Reich, *The Chicago Tribune*

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

The **Artifacts Trio** first convened in 2015 in response to the 50th anniversary of the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians. Flutist, vocalist, and electronicist Nicole Mitchell, cellist Tomeka Reid, and drummer Mike Reed have all held leadership roles in the organization; they also have a history more than a decade long of playing in one another's bands. Originally the group's repertoire consisted of tunes composed by AACM members, including Leroy Jenkins, Edward Wilkerson Jr., Anthony Braxton, and Fred Anderson. On the trio's debut CD, 2015's *Artifacts* (482 Music), their rearrangements distill the pieces to their essential virtues, such as the jubilant demeanor and intricate changes of Roscoe Mitchell's "Jo Jar" and the insistent, spiritual vibe of Amina Claudine Myers's "Have Mercy on Us." The AACM's golden anniversary festivities are long since over, but the Artifacts Trio have continued to play, and they've opened up their book to include their own compositions. They're currently putting the finishing touches on an upcoming album that will include original material as well as a couple more pieces by Roscoe Mitchell and Muhal Richard Abrams.

—Bill Meyer for the Chicago Reader

- 2015 NPR Jazz Critics Poll Top Albums of the Year
- The Best Albums of 2015 - Nate Chinen, The New York Times
- Best Releases of 2015 - Troy Collins, All About Jazz
- The Best Jazz Of 2015 - Stewart Smith, The Quietus
- Top 10 2015 - Paul Acquaro, The Free Jazz Collective
- Top 10 2015 - Lee Epstein, The Free Jazz Collective

While the members of the Artifacts Trio all call Chicago home, they maintain connections to California and LA. Tomeka currently teaches at Mills College, and Nicole lived in Long Beach from 2011–2019 while teaching at UC Irvine, where her favorite spots to play were the blue whale and the World Stage.

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