



REDCAT

Sans Soleil with William Parker and Lesley Mok

- Bandung

Music

FEB 17, 2024
8:30 PM

REDCAT
Roy and Edna Disney
CalArts Theater
CaLARTS
California Institute of the Arts

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. We honor their ancestors past, present, and future, and recognize their continued existence and contributions to our society.

Sans Soleil with William Parker and Lesley Mok

• Bandung

Trumpet, Electronics: CHRIS WILLIAMS

Saxophones, Electronics: PATRICK SHIROISHI

Bass: WILLIAM PARKER

Drums: LESLEY MOK

16mm Film: LAURA SOFÍA PÉREZ

Producer and Co-Curator: MADS FALCONE

Thank you to Amber Navran, Laura Sofía Pérez, Patricia Nicholson-Parker, David Leon, William Parker, Lesley Mok, Mads Falcone, Pan Afrikan Peoples Arkestra, Fred Ho, Vinny Golia, the REDCAT production and technical team, and to our family, chosen family, and the extended improvisation community.

ABOUT THE WORK

Sans Soleil was formed in 2018 by Chris Williams and Patrick Shiroishi, when the two artists first performed together in Los Angeles and discovered a shared creative ethos and interest in the exploration of sound. The duo began during a moment of intersection, as Chris was preparing to depart Los Angeles for New York, fostering a collaboration that blossomed over airplanes, trains, shared space, and discussions of music, life, injustices, and community. Through the rituals of traveling and the intention required to co-create in an always changing environment, Williams and Shiroishi created the foundation of a collaborative, multi-genre, improvisatory practice. Named after a Chris Marker film that holds memory as a part of a shared imagery, the duo developed as a place to explore the saxophone/trumpet format, building a unique musical vocabulary. Sans Soleil is currently working on their third album, which touches and expands on new sonic qualities, drawing from individual and collective moments of musical growth. The work *Bandung* emerges from within this practice as a long form composition that stretches the group to a “traditional quartet” by adding bass player William Parker and drummer Lesley Mok. The piece takes its name from a conference held in 1955 promoting pan-African and pan-Asian solidarity. It aims to pull from the history and practice of all four artists’ surroundings, listenings, and conversations with peers and elders, presenting a work that embodies hope, dissonance, and, of course, unity.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Sans Soleil is a multi-genre ritual duo focused on deepening Black and Asian American solidarity, created and led by Chris Williams and Patrick Shiroishi. Their individual practices have taken inspiration from social histories as well as their personal ancestral history and experiences, diving into cultural themes as well as political underweavings. Connecting the past with the present while looking into the future, Williams and Shiroishi blend musical genres while continuing to grow their collective voice.

For the duo's REDCAT premiere, they present *Bandung*, an evening-length composition weaving field recordings, pan-Indigenous instrumentation, and free jazz expression, in collaboration with expanded ensemble members Lesley Mok and William Parker.

Chris Williams is an interdisciplinary artist and musician based in Brooklyn, NY and is most at home collaborating with contemporary improvisers and experimentalists. He has toured extensively throughout the U.S. and Europe. His work explores the dyad of ancestral trauma and power existing in all Black Americans. Williams has been commissioned by WasteLAnd and International Contemporary Ensemble and has been in residence or with BANFF Centre for the Arts, Foundation of Contemporary Arts, Atlantic Center for the Arts, Musik Installationen Nürnberg and others. He has collaborated with creators including Eyvind Kang, Joanna Mattrey, Miriam Parker, Shiroishi Shiroishi, Bennie Maupin, Nicole Mitchell, Fay Victor, Wendy Eisenberg, Luke Stewart, Pink Siifu, and Marjani Forte-Saunders.

Patrick Shiroishi is a Japanese-American multi-instrumentalist and composer based in Los Angeles who is perhaps best known for his extensive and incredibly intense work with the saxophone. Over the last decade he has established himself as one of the premier improvising musicians in Los Angeles, playing solo and in numerous collaborative projects. Shiroishi may well be considered a foundational player in the city's vast musical expanse. Since the release of his 2013 solo debut *black sun sutra*, Shiroishi has produced a hefty handful of LPs. Sometimes, his work is sprawling and bizarre. At other times, it's more subdued. But at the root of all of his endeavors lies strong musical partnerships, resulting in records that capture the freewheeling energy of all the musicians, collectively embracing spontaneity.

William Parker is a bassist, improviser, composer, writer, and educator from New York City. He has recorded over 150 albums, published six books, and taught and mentored hundreds of young musicians and artists. Parker has been called "one of the most inventive bassists/leaders since [Charles] Mingus" and "the creative heir to Jimmy Garrison and Paul Chambers ... directly influenced by '60s avant-gardists, such as Sirone, Henry Grimes, and Alan Silva." The Village Voice called him "the most consistently brilliant free jazz bassist of all time" and Time Out New York named him one of the "50 Greatest New York Musicians of All Time." Parker's current active bands include the large-band The Little Huey Creative Orchestra; the Raining on the Moon Sextet; the In Order to Survive Quartet; Stan's Hat Flapping in the Wind; the Cosmic Mountain Quintet with Hamid Drake, Kidd Jordan, and Cooper-Moore; as well as a deep and ongoing solo bass study. His recordings have long been documented by the AUM Fidelity record label and on his own Centering Records, among others. His duo project with Patricia Nicholson Parker, "Hope Cries for Justice," combines music, storytelling, poetry, and dance. Over the decades, Parker has developed a reputation as a connector and hub of information concerning the history of creative music, recently culminating in two hefty volumes of interviews, *Conversations I* and *Conversations II*, with over 60 avant-garde and creative musicians. He is also the subject of an exhaustive 468-page "sessionography" that documents thousands of performances and recording sessions, a remarkable chronicle of his prolificness as an active artist. He has been a key figure in the New York and European creative music scenes since the 1970s and has worked all over the world. Parker has performed with Cecil Taylor, Don Cherry, Peter Brotzmann, Milford Graves, Peter Kowald, and David S. Ware, among many others.

Lesley Mok is a percussionist and interdisciplinary artist who works in sound, installation, film, and theater. Interested in the ways social conditions shape our beings, Lesley's work focuses on overacting humanness to explore ideas about alienness and privilege. Their work draws from queer and feminist art practices, Chinese philosophy, Caribbean folkloric musical traditions, futurist perspectives, and ancestral knowledge. Their ongoing explorations with composition and improvisation are most notably documented in their ten-piece improvising chamber ensemble, *The Living Collection* (American Dreams Records). Other recent works include *stilled leaf-chatter* (2022), *bird in its chest* (2022), *pooling light* (2021), *but I forced to mind my vision of a sky* (2020), and *she smashed the enclosure* (2020). In addition to their own work, Lesley can be heard in Myra Melford's *Fire and Water*, David Leon's *Bird's Eye*, Anna Webber's *Shimmer Wince*, the percussion co-operative *The Forest*, and co-led projects *tombstar* and *vehicle / passenger*. Lesley's work has been recognized by the ASCAP Foundation, *Roulette Intermedium*, and the *Asian American Arts Alliance*, and has been performed by *International Contemporary Ensemble*, *Metropolis Ensemble*, and *JACK Quartet*. They have collaborated with *Tomeka Reid*, *Fay Victor*, *William Parker*, *Cory Smythe*, *Jen Shyu*, *Myra Melford*, *Isabel Crespo Pardo*, *edi kwon*, *Zekkereya El-margharbel*, *David Leon*, *Doyeon Kim*, *Adam O'Farrill*, and others.

Laura Sofia Pérez is an interdisciplinary artist who works in video, film, sound, and installation. She received her MFA in Film/Video from California Institute of the Arts. Her work draws from feminist and avant-garde cinema, phenomenological philosophy, Caribbean Postcolonial theory, and ancestral knowledge. She often works in collaborative settings of experimentation and improvisation with artists of varying disciplines and backgrounds to voice common perspectives on political, cultural, and social issues. Recent artist residencies include *The Studios at MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA (2023)*, *BAiR Emerging at Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, Banff, Canada (2020)*, *the AfA Masterclass: Radical Care with Terike Haapoja (2020)*, and *La Práctica at Beta-Local, San Juan, Puerto Rico (2019)*.

REDCAT TECHNICAL STAFF

Director of Production & Technical Director: ADAM MATTHEW

Associate TD, Sound and Video: PETE PACE

Associate TD, Lighting: CHU-HSUAN CHANG

Audio Assistant: ALEX MELZER

Lighting Operator: BRIAN HASHMOTO

Deck: ANDREW CHILD

Camera Operator: NAT NICHOLAS



KCRW is the Official Media Sponsor of REDCAT

Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @calartsredcat

For more information, email redcat@calarts.edu or visit redcat.org