

ACKLANDARTMUSEUM

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

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“Look Before You Leap”: Seven New Music/Dance Compositions to be Performed at the Ackland Art Museum

Created by Maura Garcia and MGL, new works are inspired by modern and contemporary art on view

Chapel Hill, NC -- The Ackland Art Museum at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill welcomes back to its galleries composer/sound artist MGL and dancer/choreographer Maura Garcia for the world premiere of “Look Before You Leap,” a seven-part work weaving together music and dance.

MGL, based in the Triangle area, and Maura Garcia, based in Kansas City, have both composed and performed extensively in response to art in museums. Each part of “Look Before You Leap” is inspired by one or more artworks in the Ackland’s current exhibition, *Testing Testing: Painting and Sculpture since 1960 from the Permanent Collection*.

On view at the Ackland Art Museum through 3 January 2016, *Testing Testing* highlights ways in which art made since 1960 has tested possibilities within and beyond conventional boundaries of art-making. It looks at how—through experimentation, innovation, and skill—visual artists have used both new and traditional materials in new combinations. “Look Before You Leap” plays upon the show’s experimental nature and expands the scope of the exhibition by adding in the element of live performance.

The new works by Maura Garcia and MGL will be performed live at the Ackland Art Museum on Sunday, 18 October 2015, from 2:00-3:00 PM, by the choreographer and composer themselves. Admission is free.

About the Artists

Maura Garcia is a dancer/choreographer who collaborates within communities to create stories of identity and place. Originally from North Carolina, Garcia is an Indigenous woman (Cherokee/Mattamuskeet) who uses her art to form connections, highlight cultural values, and explore the rhythms of the natural world. Garcia specializes in multi-media, one-woman shows involving audience participation.

MGL (Mark Gabriel Little) is a composer and musician who works in collaboration with museums, choreographers, performance artists, and other musicians. His work has a foundation in African American musical traditions and incorporates other African diasporic, Native American, Western Classical, and East Asian elements. In his collaborations, MGL bridges visual and performing arts with an unconventional sound and music vocabulary.



Maura Garcia



MGL

In 2009, MGL and Maura Garcia collaborated on the creation of "The Little People," an exploration of the roles of diminutive spirits in traditional Cherokee mythology. In 2012, they created "Crossroads," a five-month project that included a story-collecting residency and a community dance workshop. "Crossroads" culminated in a mixed-media performance presented at the Charleston Library Society, featuring a choral work in five movements and music composed by MGL.

Earlier this year, the two created "Ode to the Sun," poems translated into music performed as part of "Ahwisgvsgo'i," a multi-media project exploring indigenous planting traditions of the southeast, the growing cycle, and stories of place.

In 2008 and 2009, the Ackland Art Museum commissioned Maura Garcia to create exhibition-specific movement workshops for its Community Days, in response to the Museum's exhibitions of sculptures, prints, and drawings.

In addition, MGL was commissioned by the Ackland Art Museum in 2012 to create "Fracking Music! Parts 1 and 2." Inspired by hydraulic fracturing and *The Spectacular of Vernacular*, an Ackland exhibition of contemporary art works that take the mundane as their subjects, the composition relied on sounds recorded during the installation of the show and its opening reception, layered with synthesizers, saxophone, and vocals.

About the Ackland

The Ackland Art Museum is located on the historic campus of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The Ackland's holdings consist of more than 17,000 works of art, featuring significant collections of European masterworks, twentieth-century and contemporary art, African art, North Carolina pottery, and folk art. In addition, the Ackland has North Carolina's premier collections of Asian art and works on paper (drawings, prints, and photographs). As an academic unit of the University, the Ackland serves broad local, state, and national constituencies.

Admission and Hours

Admission to the Ackland Art Museum is always free, with donations accepted.

The Ackland is open Wednesday through Saturday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and Sundays 1:00 to 5:00 PM. The Museum is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Location

The Ackland Art Museum is located on South Columbia Street, just south of East Franklin Street, on the campus of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Detailed directions are available at www.ackland.org or by calling 919.966.5736.

Parking is available at several nearby municipal and private parking decks, and at meters on Franklin Street. Detailed parking information and a map are available at www.parkonthehill.com.

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