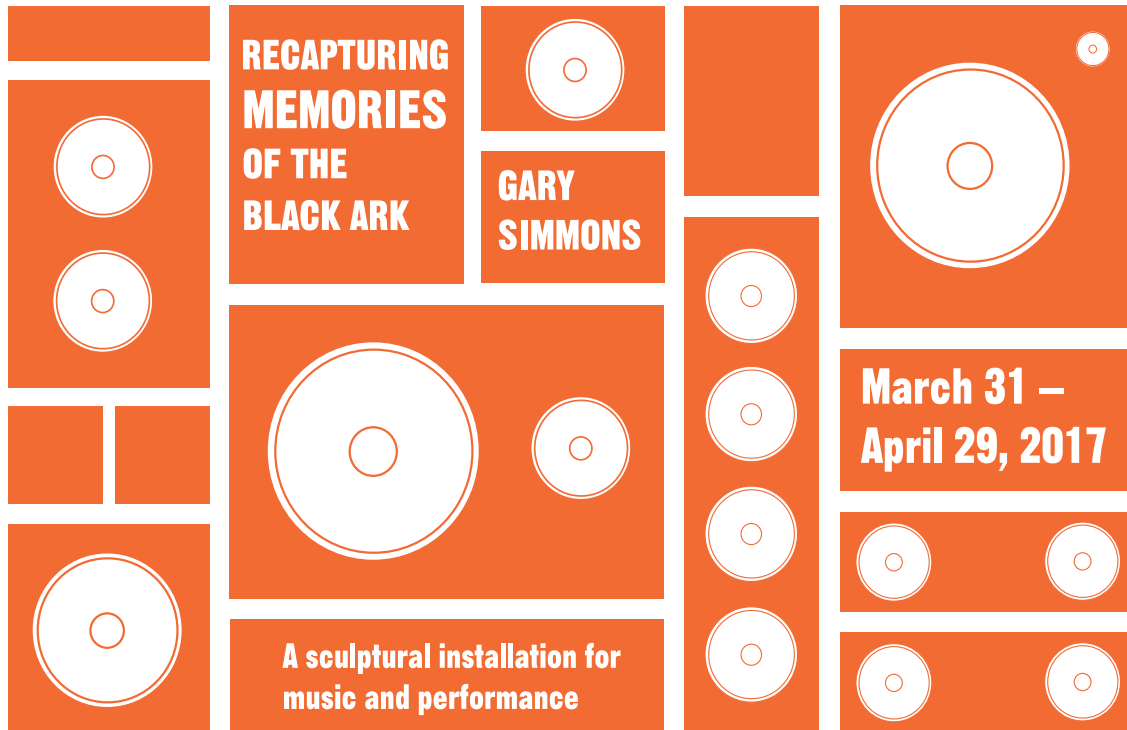


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Recapturing Memories of the Black Ark
Gary Simmons**

A sculptural installation for music and performance

March 31 – April 29, 2017

Performances on Opening Night + scheduled Thursdays and Saturdays through April

March 6, 2017, San Francisco, CA – Southern Exposure presents *Recapturing Memories of the Black Ark*, a sculptural installation by renowned visual artist Gary Simmons that serves as both literal and metaphorical platform for music and performance. A diverse selection of Bay Area musicians will activate the installation through the month of April in the gallery.

Simmons is best known for his “erasure” drawings, partially erased chalk drawings on chalkboard walls – works which evoke a sense of loss and convey the persistent power of memory, foremost around the erasure of black voices and bodies. In *Recapturing Memories of the Black Ark*, a similar ghostly residue

remains in the space through looped video documentation of the musicians' performances.

Southern Exposure will feature a diverse selection of local musicians and performers on this platform, creating a space that reverberates with the echoes of the wide array of musical voices that create the Bay Area community. Featured artists include Xuxa Santamaria, Chhoti Maa, Beast Nest, and The Creatrix. Performances are curated by Vreni Michelini Castillo, Sofia Córdova, Chris Duncan, Mik Gaspay, and Valerie Imus. Noted cultural writer and music critic Jeff Chang will be in conversation with Simmons on April 22.

Inspired by the Black Ark, Lee "Scratch" Perry's famed Jamaican studio and the site of the birth of dub, *Recapturing Memories of the Black Ark* includes a series of speakers hand-built from vintage parts and wood scavenged from the Treme neighborhood of post-Katrina New Orleans. Each performer can reconfigure the speakers according to their needs. Perry came up through the sound systems of Jamaica, mobile collectives of dj's and mc's who would perform at parties. As a music producer, he created a distinct sound that relied heavily on the use of echo, looping, and reverb – techniques that have been deeply influential across musical genres.

EVENT LISTING INFORMATION

What: *Recapturing Memories of the Black Ark*
A sculptural installation by Gary Simmons, activated by music and performance on Thursday and Saturday evenings through April. The installation is a series of speakers hand-built from vintage parts and wood scavenged from the Treme neighborhood of post-Katrina New Orleans. Featured artists include Xuxa Santamaria, Chhoti Maa, Beast Nest, and The Creatrix.

When: March 31 – April 29, 2017
Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 12:00 – 6:00 PM
Location: Southern Exposure, 3030 20th Street, San Francisco
Cost: FREE

What: Live Musical Performances
A diverse selection of Bay Area musicians will activate the installation in the gallery. Featured artists include Xuxa Santamaria, Chhoti Maa, Beast Nest, and The Creatrix. Performances on Opening Night and scheduled Thursdays and Saturdays through April. A full schedule of performers will be available at www.soex.org/blackark.

When: 7:00 PM on March 31, April 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29
Location: Southern Exposure, 3030 20th Street, San Francisco
Cost: \$10-\$20 sliding scale

What: Gary Simmons in Conversation with Jeff Chang
Noted cultural writer and music critic Jeff Chang sits down with Simmons for a wide-ranging conversation on art, music, race and culture. Chang is the author of *Can't Stop Won't Stop* (2005), a chronicle of the early hip hop scene, *Who We Be: The Colorization of America* (2014), on the social history, cultural influence, and massive selling of multiculturalism in America over the last thirty years, and many other texts.

When: Saturday, April 22, 2017, 6:00 PM
Location: Southern Exposure, 3030 20th Street, San Francisco
Cost: \$10-\$20 sliding scale (includes admission to live musical performance following the talk)

ABOUT GARY SIMMONS

Gary Simmons (b. 1964) lives and works in Los Angeles, CA. Simmons received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1988 from the School of Visual Arts in New York, NY and received a Masters of Fine Art degree in 1990 from The California Institute of the Arts in Valencia, CA. He is the recipient of the 1991 Penny McCall Foundation Grant, New York, NY and the 1990 National Endowment for the Arts, Interarts Grant, Washington, DC.

Simmons has had domestic and international exhibitions at 262 Bowery, New York, NY; The Bohemian Foundation, New York, NY; CAIS Gallery, Seoul/Hong Kong; The Contemporary, New York, NY; The Dia Center, New York, NY; The Fabric Workshop/Museum, Philadelphia, PA; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C.; Ikkan Art Gallery, Singapore; Jan Weiner Gallery, Kansas City, MO; Kunsthaus, Zurich, Switzerland; Musée D'Art Americain, Giverny, France; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, Chicago, IL; Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit in collaboration with Culture Lab Detroit, Detroit, MI; Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, CA; The Museum of Modern Art, Fort Worth, TX; Perez Art Museum, Miami, FL; The Saint Louis Art Museum, Saint Louis, MO; SAKS, Geneva, Switzerland; SITE Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM; The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY; Video Gallery, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA; White Columns, New York, NY; and Whitney Museum at Philip Morris, New York, NY.

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ABOUT SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

Southern Exposure (SoEx) is an artist-centered non-profit organization committed to supporting visual artists. Through our extensive and innovative programming, SoEx strives to experiment, collaborate and further educate while providing an extraordinary resource center and forum for Bay Area and national artists in our Mission District space and off-site, in the public realm.

An active presence in the Bay Area since 1974, SoEx is continually evolving in response to the needs of artists and the community while engaging the public in artists' work. Central to our mission is to remain the most accessible space for visual artists to produce and present new work, learn, and connect. SoEx provides visual artists with the tools and resources they need to experiment in an open and supportive environment. We also work to advocate to new, diverse audiences and build an ever-growing community of enthusiasts and supporters of the visual arts.

For more information and images, contact Lisa Martin at (415) 863-2141 x102 or communications@soex.org. Southern Exposure is located at 3030 20th Street (at Alabama), San Francisco, CA 94110. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM and gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 12:00 – 6:00 PM. Website: www.soex.org.

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