Modern: Re-imagining the New - Program

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About the Distinguished Visiting Artist Series

Wright State University, the College of Liberal Arts, and CELIA: The Ohio Center for Excellence in Collaborative Education, Leadership & Innovation in the Arts, is pleased to present Modern: Reimagining the New, a year-long Distinguished Visiting Artist Series reimagining music, art, and dance.

Modern: Reimagining the New features Sō Percussion, Dwight Rhoden and Complexions Contemporary Ballet, and a reinstallation of Wright State’s Sol LeWitt wall drawing for public viewing, concerts, lectures, film screenings, master classes, and panel discussion—all of them free and open to the public. We think you’ll find much to like in this menu of offerings—thanks for joining us!

Series Schedule

CURATORIAL CONVERSATIONS: SOL LeWITT
Thursday, January 19, 6–8 p.m.
Dayton Art Institute
Panel discussion with Susan Martis, Curator of Education, Dayton Art Institute, and Stefan Chinov, Associate Professor of Art and Art History, Wright State

SOL LeWITT DOCUMENTARY FILM BY CHRIS TEERINKS
Thursday, February 2, 6–8 p.m.
Dayton Art Institute

REINSTALLATION, SOL LeWITT WALL DRAWING, 6 GEOMETRIC FIGURES
February 6–17
Stein Galleries, Creative Arts Center, Wright State

SOL LeWITT DOCUMENTARY FILM BY CHRIS TEERINKS
Friday, February 24, 2–4 p.m.
280 Creative Arts Center, Wright State
Reception following

LECTURE BY JOHN HOGAN
Installation Director and Archivist, Sol LeWitt Wall Drawings, Yale University Art Gallery
Sunday, March 12, 2:30–4 p.m.
280 Creative Arts Center, Wright State

OPENING RECEPTION OF THE SOL LeWITT WALL DRAWING, 6 GEOMETRIC FIGURES
Sunday, March 12, 4–5:30 p.m.
Stein Galleries, Creative Arts Center, Wright State

WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY
Sō PERCUSSION FESTIVAL AND RESIDENCY
Thursday–Saturday, January 26–28
Creative Arts Center, Wright State

WRIGHT STATE PERCUSSION FESTIVAL, MASTER CLASSES, AND CLINICS
Saturday, January 28, 11 a.m.–5 p.m.
Wright State University Schuster Hall

Sō PERCUSSION CONCERT
Saturday, January 28, 7:30 p.m.
Wright State University Schuster Hall
Dwight Rhoden
Founding Artistic Director/resident choreographer of Complexions Contemporary Ballet, Rhoden has established a remarkably wide-ranging career, earning distinction from The New York Times as “one of the most sought out choreographers of the day.” A Dayton native who began dancing at age 17, Rhoden has performed with Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Les Ballet Jazz De Montreal, and as a principal dancer with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. As a performer, he has appeared in numerous television specials, documentaries, and commercials throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe and has been a featured performer on many PBS Great Performances specials. In 1994, Rhoden and legendary dancer Desmond Richardson founded Complexions Contemporary Ballet (CCB). Together they have brought their unique brand of contemporary dance to the world for over two decades. CCB is widely considered as “America’s Original Multicultural Dance Company,” and is celebrated for its pioneering spirit and the building of a universal brand that continues to challenge traditional ideas and redefine possibilities in the dance arena. Under Rhoden’s direction, Complexions has become a dance institution that is much in demand, leading the way as a destination for innovation through courageous and cutting-edge programming. Over the years, Complexions has remained consistent in delivering a profound passion for diversity that has framed its vision and become its hallmark.
Complexions Contemporary Ballet
Complexions was conceived in 1994 to blend the uniqueness and the diversity of artists of different cultures and races and to celebrate a shared passion for dance. Inspired by social and political issues as well as human relationships, the company’s repertoire is deliberately contemporary and accessible to a wide range of audience tastes. Founders Desmond Richardson and Dwight Rhoden, along with their New York City–based company of dance thoroughbreds—there are roughly 20 in the company, but guest artists swell the ranks as needed—have awakened audiences to a new, exciting genre that combines the best of athleticism, lyricism, and technical training and experience.

John Hogan
John Hogan is the Mary Jo and Ted Shen Installations Director and Archivist for Sol LeWitt Wall Drawings at Yale University Art Gallery. He has an M.F.A. from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Hogan was a principal draftsperson for the Sol LeWitt Studio from 1982 to LeWitt’s death in 2007, and Installations Director for the LeWitt Estate since the artist’s death. He has overseen numerous installations of LeWitt’s wall drawings, including at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, Centre Pompidou-Metz, M–Museum Leuven and works in private collections, and has curated major LeWitt exhibitions including LeWitt’s MASS MoCA retrospective in 2008 and the Botín Foundation’s 17 Wall Drawings in Santander, Spain, in 2013. He began his position at Yale University Art Gallery in 2013, a unique role involving collaboration among conservators, curators, and artists. Hogan is currently collaborating on the research for the Sol LeWitt Wall Drawing Catalogue Raisonné to be published digitally by Artifex Press and in book form by Yale University Art Gallery and Yale University Press.

Sol LeWitt (1928–2007)
Sol LeWitt was born in 1928 in Hartford, Connecticut. He was a leading figure in the Conceptual Art movement from the 1960s until his death in 2007. His work has left a lasting mark on the history of American Art in the 20th century and is prominently featured in museum collections around the world. LeWitt is best known for his large-scale Wall Drawings—rigorous arrays of designs, shapes, grids, and colors rendered in pencil and paint in coherence with strict instructions and diagrams to be followed in executing the work. He made over 1,200 of these works in his career. The Wright State University art gallery is fortunate to own the proposal for one of LeWitt’s large wall drawings, commissioned by the university benefactors Robert and Elaine Stein in 1981. It is titled 6 Geometric Figures and was exhibited at Rike Hall from 1981 to 1994. The drawing will be reinstalled as a permanent part of the Stein collection, now housed in the Robert and Elaine Stein Galleries at Wright State University.

Sō Percussion
For over a decade, Sō Percussion has redefined the modern percussion ensemble as a flexible, omnivorous entity, pushing its voice to the forefront of American musical culture. Praised by the New Yorker for their “exhilarating blend of precision and anarchy, rigor and bedlam,” Sō’s adventurous spirit is written into the DNA passed down from composers like John Cage and Steve Reich, as well as from pioneering ensembles like the Kronos Quartet and Nexus Percussion. Sō Percussion’s career now encompasses 16 albums, touring throughout the U.S. and around the world, a dizzying array of collaborative projects, several ambitious educational programs, and a steady output of their own music.
Gerald Noble, Instructor of Music
Gerald Noble is Coordinator of Percussion at Wright State University and a Dayton Philharmonic member. He performs often with his pop group, Moment’s Notice. Noble has performed and taught throughout China and the US, including Hawaii, Alaska, and the Virgin Islands. Previously he was a USAF Band of Flight member, where he participated in over 1,500 concerts including performances for presidents and heads of state. Noble works regularly with the Cincinnati Symphony, Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, and Fort Wayne Philharmonic, and he routinely collaborates in recital with WSU School of Music faculty. Noble has performed with the Indianapolis Symphony, Alabama Symphony, Hunan Symphony in China, Louisiana Symphony, and New Mexico Symphony and has toured the Caribbean as a Princess Cruise drummer. His recording credits include Cincinnati Symphony, USAF Band, and a CD with WSU Trumpet Professor, Dan Zehringer. Under Noble’s direction, the WSU Percussion Ensemble won the 2016 Percussive Arts Society International Percussion Ensemble Competition, has appeared at the Ohio Day of Percussion, Illinois Day of Percussion, Ohio Music Educator’s Association Conference, and the Niu Valley Percussion Festival in Honolulu. Noble is a clinician for Zildjian and Pearl/Adams and is a consultant for D’Addario & Co. He holds degrees from University of Cincinnati—College Conservatory of Music, Indiana University, and Cleveland State.

Stefan Chinov, Associate Professor of Art and Art History
Stefan Chinov is Associate Professor of Sculpture and Drawing at the WSU Department of Art and Art History. He was born in Sofia, Bulgaria, and he holds an M.A. degree from the National Academy of Art in Sofia. After he moved to the United States, Chinov completed his M.F.A. degree in Sculpture at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. His work has been shown across the United States and internationally, including at the Sculpture Center in Cleveland, Tigre Museum of Art in Argentina, and Sofia University Gallery. He has completed residency fellowships and projects across the United States and in Antarctica, Israel, Turkey, and Spain.

Gina Walther, Associate Professor of Dance
Gina Walther is in her 10th year at Wright State University, where she teaches choreography, modern dance, and jazz dance. Her professional teaching experience includes Indiana University Ballet Department, Point Park University (Pennsylvania), New Arts Festival (Florida), RDA Craft of Choreography Conference (Utah and Pennsylvania), Vineland Regional Ballet Company (New Jersey), and RDA Pacific Festival 2010 & 2014 (Washington). As a professional dancer, Walther has performed works by many of modern dances’ most influential choreographers that include Dwight Rhoden, Ulysses Dove, Donald McKayle, Merce Cunningham, Talley Beatty, Anna Sokolow, Donald Byrd, and many more. While performing with The Dayton Contemporary Dance Company (DCDC), Walther toured Germany, Russia, France, and throughout the United States. She had the honor of performing at Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center, and The Joyce Theatre. Walther’s choreography has won several choreographic awards including the prestigious National Choreographic Award and the Project Tier Award and has received Gala Status many times at Regional Dance America Festivals. The New York Times called her work Still Present set on DCDC “a stirring dance” that “served as a sparkling introduction to the troupe.” Walther received her B.F.A. in Dance Performance from Southern Methodist University.
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