

Rauschenberg Gallery hosts avant-garde composer July 9



Italian composer and visual artist Philip Corner performs "Metal Meditations" at 1 p.m. Saturday, July 9, in the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery at Florida SouthWestern State College-Fort Myers. The performance coincides with the gallery's current exhibition, "Glenn Branca & Philip Corner re:Sound," featuring graphic and musical scores, harmonic series drawings and custom-built instruments from both artists.

"This immersive installation highlights two of the most influential avant-garde composer-performers alive today," Gallery Director Jade Dellinger says about the show, which remains in place through Aug. 13. "Both are exploring the visualization of sound."

Mr. Branca's 1985 drawings investigating the mathematics of harmonics are on display along with some of Mr. Corner's site-specific pieces inviting guest participation. Fifty of Mr. Corner's original drawings (1973-1976), forming the score of his piece "Metal Meditations," are also on exhibited for the first time anywhere in the world.

A founding member of the Fluxus group (which included Yoko Ono, John Lennon and others), Mr. Corner is well-known for "Piano Activities," his controversial 1962 performance art piece that resulted in the destruction of a piano on live television. His relationships with the gallery's namesake Bob Rauschenberg and artist John Cage spanned decades.

Mr. Branca, a New York-based musician who invented the Harmonics Guitar, was a founder of the No Wave movement with his bands The Static and Theoretical Girls in the late 1970s. He has released more than 15 full-length albums and collaborated with numerous musical groups, including the band Sonic Youth.

Mr. Corner's performance in the gallery will be with collaborator and noted choreographer Phoebe Neville. Mr. Rauschenberg's former band Sonic Combine will open the afternoon and provide support throughout his performance. The gallery will release other exhibit-specific performances later this summer.

Events at the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery at FSW are free and open to the public. Regular gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call 489-9313 or visit rauschenberggallery.com. |