

WHITNEY

Whitney Museum of American Art
945 Madison Avenue at 75th Street
New York, NY 10021
www.whitney.org/press

Tel. (212) 570-3633
Fax (212) 570-4169
pressoffice@whitney.org

Press Release

Contact:
Whitney Museum of American Art
Stephen Soba, Kira Garcia
(212) 570-3633
March 2007

WHITNEY TO PRESENT GRAB IT! THE MUSIC OF JACOBTV (JACOB TER VELDHUIS)

A free three-day festival of music, dance, and video marks the first large-scale exploration in the U.S. of the works of the renegade Dutch composer

May 2-4, 2007 at the Whitney at Altria, 120 Park Avenue @ 42nd Street

Whitney Museum of American Art concludes its Spring 2007 *Whitney Live* series with *Grab It!*, a three-day festival honoring maverick Dutch composer **JacobTV** (Jacob ter Veldhuis), **Wednesday to Friday, May 2-4, 2007** at the **Whitney at Altria** in mid-town Manhattan. JacobTV's work has had a huge impact on the European music scene in the past decade, but he is far less known in the U.S. This festival is the first large-scale examination of his work in the States, featuring some of his signature pieces as well as recent compositions and premieres, video, instrumental work, and a new evening-length dance piece set to his boombox music. He will also unveil a major CD/DVD anthology of his work on the Dutch label Basta, which includes orchestral music, boombox works, chamber music and video.

Dubbing his compositional style 'avant-pop,' JacobTV rejected the austere avant-gardism he saw dominating European music. Preoccupied with American media and world events, his works incorporate samples and sound bytes from those sources into soundtracks that play on boomboxes alongside explosive instrumental arrangements. TV's visceral approach transforms social documents, from political speeches and interviews to commercials and talk shows, into pointed commentary and meditations on American culture.

On **Wednesday, May 2 at 8:00 pm**, the festival opens with *Pitch Black*, an evening that brings together two adventurous Philadelphia-based groups: the celebrated **PRISM Saxophone Quartet**—champions of modern chamber music who have worked to introduce more U.S. listeners to the music of JacobTV—and the experimental dance troupe **Miro Dance Theatre**. They perform the world premiere of a new multimedia version of TV's *Pitch Black* (1998), an evening-length work that pairs six of JacobTV's pieces for saxophone and boombox with a video installation by **Tobin Rothlein** and choreography by Pennsylvania Ballet alumna **Amanda Miller**. TV's music has already inspired several choreographers in Europe, and *Pitch Black* marks a significant new collaboration in the States.

Thursday, May 3 at 8:00 pm, in the program *Artists on Art: JacobTV and America*, **Frank J. Oteri**, editor of NewMusicBox.com and outspoken crusader for new music, will interview JacobTV along with two American experts on his music, **Connie Frigo** and **Kevin Gallagher**. A short video by **Jan Willem Looze** about American sources in TV's music will screen, and another saxophone group, the **New Century Quartet**, will perform two of TV's pieces: *Heartbreakers* and the U.S. premiere of *BUKU*. Audiences will also enjoy a preview of the new CD/DVD box of JacobTV's orchestral, chamber, and boombox music. Released by the Dutch label **Basta** and distributed in the United States by **Allegro**, the collection includes over 7 hours of audio and 3.5 hours of video.

Friday, May 4 at 8:00 pm, the festival closes with *Grab It!*, in which some of America's most versatile contemporary musicians perform an array of JacobTV's instrumental and boombox works. See below.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Wednesday, May 2 at 8:00 pm

Pitch Black for saxophone quartet, boombox, dance, and video

Featuring the PRISM Saxophone Quartet and Miro Dance Theatre

- *Pitch Black* (1998) for saxophone quartet & boombox
A tribute to Chet Baker, with material from an interview shortly before his death.
- *Billie* (2003) for alto saxophone & boombox
A tribute to Billie Holiday, with a soundtrack culled from various radio interviews.
- *Grab it!* (1999) for tenor saxophone & boombox
A powerful examination of life among death row inmates.
- *Postnuclear Winterscenario No. 10* (1991-2001) for saxophone quartet
Inspired by the Gulf War of 1991, the music expresses speechlessness about war and devastation.
- *The Garden of Love* (2001) for soprano saxophone & boombox
Based on a poem by William Blake about a chapel in an imaginary garden.
- *Jesus is Coming* (2003) for saxophone quartet & boombox
The soundtrack features an angry 'evangelist' in Times Square, a small choir of the Salvation Army, and baby talk. A dark consideration of the role of religion in human history.

Thursday, May 3 at 8:00 pm

Artists on Art: JacobTV and America

- *Heartbreakers* for saxophone quartet, performed by the **New Century Quartet**
A jazz suite based on dialogue from American talk shows with videos by Dutch artist **Danielle Kwaaitaal**.
- *BUKU* (2006, US Premiere) for alto sax and boombox, played by the New Century's **Chris Hemingway**
This take on "the soul of the alto saxophone" pays tribute to three iconic players: Charlie Parker, Cannonball Adderly, and Art Pepper.
- Frank J. Oteri moderates a discussion with JacobTV about his work.
- Official presentation of the newly released 3 CD/DVD box set on the Basta label. Reception to follow.

Friday, May 4 at 8:00 pm

Grab It! Instrumental and Multimedia Work of JacobTV

- *Grab It!* (1999) for rock quartet and boombox, performed by Kevin Gallagher's band **Electric Kompany**. An arrangement of one of TV's signature works, this version draws on his background as rock musician.
- *The Body of your Dreams* (2003) for piano and boombox, performed by **Kathleen Supové**
TV calls his soundtrack "an artistic polyphony of consumer terror," whose "first victim" is the pianist...
- *Lipstick* (1998) for flute, alto flute, and boombox, performed by **Margaret Lancaster**
A take on love and deception blends material from American talk shows and a Billie Holiday interview.
- *TATATATA* (1998) for cello and boombox, performed by **Dorothy Lawson**
JacobTV comments mysteriously, "It was shortly after the First World War and Apollinaire took the little boy on his knee and sang a military tune, something like 'tatatata'..."
- *Goldrush* (1995) for percussion duo and boombox, performed by the **Meehan/Perkins Duo** (percussionists Todd Meehan and Doug Perkins)
An incisive examination of one of the defining moments of the American Dream.
- *The White Flag* (2007, World Premiere) for rock quartet and boombox, performed by **Electric Kompany** A new piece that incorporates sound and video from the Iraq War.

ABOUT JACOBTV

Dutch 'avant pop' composer JacobTV (Jacob Ter Veldhuis, b. 1951) started as a rock musician and studied composition and electronic music at the Groningen Conservatoire, where he won the Dutch Composition Prize in 1980. His work possesses an explosive strength and raw energy combined with intricate design. TV incorporates sound bytes from political speeches, commercials, interviews, talk shows, and televangelists into soundtracks of human speech. He calls this 'boombox music': music for one or more instruments combined with a soundtrack, played on a boombox. The success of the four-day 2001 JacobTV Festival in Rotterdam attested to his growing popularity. His Goldrush Concerto, the Third String Quartet and several of his so-called boombox pieces like Grab It! became hits, and various choreographers have been inspired by his music. Early in his career, JacobTV stood up to what he called the "washed-out avant-garde," which made him a controversial figure in certain circles. He strives to liberate new music from its isolation by employing a direct—at times provocative—idiom that spurns dissonance. His "coming out" as a composer of ultra-tonal, mellifluous music reached its climax with the video oratorio Paradiso. At the Holland Festival 2005, the premiere of ...NOW... a work for stereophonic orchestra performed by the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, received standing ovations.

Festival Participants:

JacobTV: www.jacobterveldhuis.com

PRISM Quartet: www.prismquartet.com

Miro Dance Theatre: www.mirodancetheatre.org

New Century Quartet: www.newcenturysax.com

Frank Oteri: www.newmusicbox.org/about.nmbx

Kevin Gallagher: www.guitar69.com

Electric Kompany: www.electrickompany.com

Margaret Lancaster: www.margaretlancaster.com

Dorothy Lawson: www.myspace.com/dorothylawson

Meehan/Perkins Duo: www.mpduo.com

Kathleen Supové: www.kathleensupove.com

ABOUT WHITNEY LIVE

Whitney Live, the Whitney Museum's performance series, features a range of sensibilities and reflects the Whitney's commitment to American art past and present. Performers represent new trends, reinterpret American traditions, and resonate with the Whitney's exhibitions and permanent collection.

The JacobTV presentation is part of a public reintroduction of the Whitney's renowned Composer's Showcase Series. Launched at the Whitney in spring 1968, the Composer's Showcase ran through the 1980s and was one of the most extraordinarily forward-thinking series where the boundaries between different types of music ("classical," "jazz," "experimental," etc.) were rejected in favor of a vibrant mix that focused on the individual composer's brilliance, originality, and impact. Like the Copland-Sessions concerts a generation before, the series focused on emerging voices that changed the course of 20th century American music. Equally notorious for its eclectic approach and the mandatory floor-seating arrangement, the series featured artists such as: Laurie Anderson, Luciano Berio, Eubie Blake, William Bolcom, John Cage, Elliott Carter, Ornette Coleman, Aaron Copland, Duke Ellington, Gil Evans, Morton Feldman, Philip Glass, Meredith Monk, Terry Riley, Sonny Rollins, Ned Rorem, Cecil Taylor, Virgil Thomson, Gunther Schuller, and many others.

This Whitney Live festival is FREE. Admission is on a first-come-first serve basis. No reservations are accepted.

Filename: JacobTV press release2
Directory: L:\DEPT\COMMUN\RELEASES
Template: C:\Documents and Settings\ikiga\Application
Data\Microsoft\Templates\Normal.dot
Title: aleba gartner associates
Subject:
Author: CVPA
Keywords:
Comments:
Creation Date: 3/22/2007 4:41 PM
Change Number: 6
Last Saved On: 3/23/2007 5:18 PM
Last Saved By: Kira Garcia
Total Editing Time: 94 Minutes
Last Printed On: 3/23/2007 5:18 PM
As of Last Complete Printing
Number of Pages: 3
Number of Words: 1,566 (approx.)
Number of Characters: 8,928 (approx.)