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If you would like to contribute to SPACES, please call: 216.621.2314



SWAP supports artists in the creation, presentation, and discussion of new work, while facilitating collaboration with artists and audiences in Northeast Ohio. Paul Catanese is SPACES' 73rd SWAP Artist-in-Residence.

Large print available at the front desk.

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CENTURY OF PROGRESS / SLEEP

Paul Catanese (Chicago, IL)
On view: August 16 - September 27, 2019

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Century of Progress / Sleep (2016 – present) is an experimental opera that reflects on the environmental, spiritual, and cultural consequences of mischaracterizations of science, lawless theories of knowledge, and epistemological chaos. This protean work has been realized in numerous forms, including as live performances for black-box theater and notably for planetarium dome at Colgate University in 2019.

During his residency at SPACES, artist Paul Catanese created an installation featuring a four-channel sound composition with video projection, texts, mylar, and fog which responds to and expands on ACT I of this work. This installation functions as a new lens for ACT I, revealing new details and textures; simultaneously, it functions as a milestone and work-in-process in the ongoing development of ACT II, which Catanese is developing as a VR experience through his role as a visiting artist at the Stamps School of Art and Design at the University of Michigan through 2020.

On September 20th, Catanese will return to SPACES with an ensemble to conduct open rehearsals that will further reflect, expand, and respond to the sound composition and contribute to the ongoing development of this project. The ensemble visit will culminate in a salon-style workshop performance with discussion.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The artist wishes to thank:

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ABOUT THE ARTIST

Paul Catanese is a hybrid media artist who creates installations, performance, video, sound, projection, and print media. He has exhibited at the Whitney Museum of American Art, Chicago Cultural Center, New Museum, SFMOMA Artist's Gallery, La Villette, China Academy of Art, Frankston Art Center, Bangkok Experimental Film Festival, Stuttgart Filmwinter, FILE, New Forms Festival, Ann Arbor Film Festival, and the International Symposium on Electronic Art. He has participated in residencies at Signal Culture, PLAYA, Goldwell Museum, Central School Project, and Kala Art Institute; has been awarded commissions from Rhizome and Turbulence, grants from the Illinois Arts Council and New York Foundation for the Arts. In 2014, he was awarded an Efroymsen Contemporary Arts Fellowship, and in 2019 named the Christian A. Johnson Endeavor Foundation Artist-in-Residence at Colgate University. His artwork can be found in collections including the Robert and Elaine Stein Galleries at Wright State University, the Center for Art + Environment Archives at the Nevada Museum of Art, and the Whitney Museum. Catanese served as President of the New Media Caucus from 2009-2014, and is currently Professor and Director of Graduate Study for Art and Art History at Columbia College Chicago.

Science is filled with
too many rules
and too many ghosts

Mirage

I have found nothing empty
Looking is not recommended
You might find something hard to see

Ground soaked in light
A liquid thought
“each star is a pool of water”

I can't tell you the truth
I can tell you the truth
I can't tell you there's no such thing as the desert

Humboldt Knows the desert's real
Fremont Knows the desert's real
Gadsden Knows the desert's real
Old Dan he says there is no desert

keep moving. don't listen.

FLOORPLAN

(1) Installation

Century of Progress / Sleep, New Terrain.
Running time: 20:00

Four-channel sound composition, two-channel video projection, text, mylar, fog. Sound installation includes contributions, response compositions, and musical gestures performed by Chris Kallmyer, Julie Licata, Evan Runyon, Matt Sargent, Gemma Godfrey, Chris Auerbach-Brown, and Paul Catanese.

(2) Listening Station

Century of Progress / Sleep, ACT I.
Running Time: 43:00

ACT I of this work was realized through the 2019 Christian A. Johnson Endeavor Foundation Artist-in-Residence Program at Colgate University where it was staged as a live performance for planetarium dome, and produced as a studio recording that will be released as an LP later this year. A preview of this recording is included on the listening station.

Performed by: Paul Catanese (vocals, electronics), Gemma Godfrey (vocals, electronics), Julie Licata (percussion, vibraphone, vocals), Evan Runyon (double bass), and Matt Sargent (lap steel guitar, vocals).

Recording: Matt Sargent and Rich Grant at Colgate University

Mixing: Matt Sargent at Bard College Electronic Music Studio

Mastering: Margaret Luthar at Chicago Mastering Services

LP Production: Gotta Groove Records, Cleveland

The following text is the libretto for ACT I, available on the listening station.

Prologue

We choose this new ocean
We are unwilling to postpone

eyes open, words pulse
the things we see
are meant to be
seen but not known

We choose this new ocean
We are unwilling to postpone

so close to the ground
as good as the sky
is it too strange to think
measurement is on the way out

We choose this new ocean
We are unwilling to postpone

and now, the familiar order
will soon come to an end

Science performs perfectly every day
Everyone knows this to be true

Hypnosis

looking down at the sea from the stars they said:
science is filled with too many rules and too many ghosts

its not a candle in the dark, it's the voice... of the wind

and now I have a rule for you:
the light went in and half came out

let me remind you of hypnosis

mine, mine, mine
mine, mine, mind
mind, mind, mined
faith is mined

Charlie had the day off – he went to the moon
Gayle had to work so she stayed back in town
Charlie sang along to the radio

Old light; light is in charge
Old light; you are not

the half that went out tried to go back in
in the chamber between none could tell them apart

Latour's Lament

Why does it burn the tongue?