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### **Composer-in-Residence Program at the Harn Museum of Art Debuts Art-Inspired Sound Installation**

GAINESVILLE, FL, March 9, 2018— The Harn Museum of Art at the University of Florida recently launched a Composer-in-Residence program with the goal of offering university students in the School of Music the opportunity to develop original compositions inspired by the Harn’s collection. Through the study of specific art objects and independent research, the Composer-in-Residence not only creates an original composition but performs his or her work in the gallery providing new ways for Harn visitors to connect with the art on view. The first composition titled *plis de temps* by Robert Seaback recently debuted on March 8. Visitors can experience a repeat performance of the composition on Sunday, March 11 at 3 p.m.

Robert Seaback, a PhD candidate in music composition and technology at the University of Florida and electroacoustic composer spent six months creating a four channel audio sound installation, *plis de temps*, as a departure from the ceramic sculpture *Pli Selon Pli* by Akiyama Yō.

Akiyama Yō, one of Japan’s most important contemporary ceramic sculptors, explores texture and form through the manipulation of clay with a commitment to experimentation and reinvention. His process, used in *Pli Selon Pli*, involves applying a blowtorch and then cutting and altering the forms, twisting and turning them inside out to create cracks and fissures.

In Robert Seaback’s musical composition *plis de temps*, sound is conceptualized as a physical material that is susceptible to physical ruptures akin to those found in Akiyama’s sculptures. Through various digital processes, sound sources recorded by the composer are deconstructed and reassembled. Sources include ocean waves, thunderstorms and various instruments. In this composition, sound becomes a malleable material substance which carries links to its own material origins despite various distortions and mutations. *Plis de temps* is a continuous succession of sonic textures that evoke the sounds of materials and the materiality of sound.

“We hope to provide learning opportunities and inspire our audiences to delve deeper into the meanings behind and techniques used to create the art on view,” said Cofrin Curator of Asian Art Jason Steuber. “What better way to do that than to provide first-hand experiences that transcend the visual to the musical/auditory?”

The Composer-in-Residence program, headed by Ivy Chen, Curatorial Assistant of Asian Art, will continue to foster collaboration among the museum and university faculty and students in the School of Music by selecting a new Composer-in-Residence each academic year. The Composer-in-Residence program is an extension of several cross-boundary programs at the Harn, which include Poet-in-Residence and Choreographer-in-Residence.



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### **About the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art**

Founded in 1990, the Harn Museum of Art is an integral part of the University of Florida. The Harn contributes to an interconnected, international community by integrating the arts and culture into curricula throughout the university's system of colleges and centers. Its holdings include more than 11,100 works in five main collecting areas: Asian art, African art, photography, modern art of the Americas and Europe, and international contemporary art. The museum also has noteworthy collections of Oceanic and Ancient American Art and works on paper. In addition to rotating installations drawn from its permanent collection, the Harn organizes traveling exhibitions, public lectures, panel discussions, academic symposia, and educational programs for adults, students, and children.

The Harn Museum of Art, at 3259 Hull Road in Gainesville, Florida, is part of the University of Florida's Cultural Plaza, which is also home to the Florida Museum of Natural History and the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. Admission is free. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. The museum is open until 9 p.m. the second Thursday of every month for Museum Nights. The Camellia Court Café is open Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information call 352-392-9826 or visit [harn.ufl.edu](http://harn.ufl.edu).

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