

**Gordon Getty Concert Series** presents

**OO|OO**

**With an opening performance by Butchy Fuego and Jeremiah Chiu**

Saturday, December 5, 2015, 7:30 PM  
Harold M. Williams Auditorium, The Getty Center

This event complements the exhibition *The Younger Generation: Contemporary Japanese Photography*, currently on view in the Museum, Center for Photographs, through February 21, 2016.

# OOIOO

## About the Performance

For the first time, all the galleries of the Getty's Center for Photographs has been completely dedicated to the work of women photographers, and specifically contemporary women of Japan. The exhibition *The Younger Generation: Contemporary Japanese Photography* celebrates recent work by five of such artists, working in the legacy of pioneering photographer Ishiuchi Miyako, whose work is also on view. They are a group of women who rose prominence in Japan in the 1990s with their provocative self-portraits and intimate images of domestic scenes that challenged the status quo of the male-dominated photography community.

When the opportunity arose to program a night of music in support of these versatile and complex women, Yoshimi and OOIOO immediately came to mind as the most artistically compelling women working in music in Japan. Like the photographers, OOIOO rattles the boundaries around tradition, artistic expression, the formation of identity, and pop culture.

## About the Artists

OOIOO (pronounced "oh-oh-eye-oh-oh") is an extraordinary, all-female music project based in Japan, led by the compellingly radical Yoshimi. Since 1997, OOIOO has produced seven full-length albums that have consistently subverted expectations and warped perceptions of what constitutes pop and experimental music.

For nearly 30 years, Yoshimi (a.k.a. Yoshimio or Yoshimi P-We) has been a drummer and artistic force within the pioneering noise rock band Boredoms. Defined by their sonic-psychic explosions and incomprehensible chaos, Boredoms made a strong impact on the artistic identity of both Japanese and American youth culture throughout the 1990s to today.

The band's international cult following led to the most far-out and pointedly strange album ever supported by a major record label when Warner Music released *Pop Tatari* in 1992, leading to major tours opening for Sonic Youth and Nirvana. The band also became known for organizing epic, spiraling drum circle events known as 77 Boadrum, staged under the Brooklyn and Manhattan Bridges in New York in 2007, and subsequent iterations held around the world.

Just as Boredoms are consistently ranked among the strongest experimental musicians of the contemporary era, OOIOO is a definitive example of artistically adventurous women working in music today. With a powerful and joyous energy, OOIOO has created a musical language all its own. Yoshimi has often described their sound as a tapestry with intersecting vertical and horizontal threads of organic and electric tones which form a keen sense of color and texture. They combine a range of instruments from traditional to rock, along with indigenous music and particular emphasis on primordial rhythm and chanting, pushing their sound into an entirely new and exhilarating dimension. OOIOO's integration of tribal sounds feels both ancient and radically modern—universal, yet uniquely their own.

In the past two decades OOIOO has earned widespread critical acclaim, distinguishing it as much more than a Boredoms side project, and becoming a platform for Yoshimi and her collaborators to cultivate their wonderfully addicting take on experimental rock.

# Butchy Fuego & Jeremiah Chiu

## About the Performance

As OOIOO and Boredoms have toured extensively since the 1990s, they have built a strong web of collaborators across the globe, and formed a family tree of sorts with artists they love and support, create unique performances with, and who, at times, join them as members of the band. One such person is Butchy Fuego, who in 2007 started touring as a member of Boredoms and is based here in Los Angeles.

For tonight's event, OOIOO have asked Fuego to create a special opening performance which grows out of the Seeing Trails Hike Gang, an outdoor enthusiasts' club comprised of artists and musicians founded by Fuego in 2013. Dedicated to what they call Wilderness Arts, the gang seeks immersive experiences in nature and experimental exchanges forging the relationship between contemporary culture and the landscape in which it exists. This past October, the Seeing Trails Division of Fine Art (DFA) was formed and created a series of performance-based artworks at High Desert Test Sites: Epicenter in Green River, Utah. One of the pieces, entitled *Doppler at High Noon*, marked the first performance between Fuego and Jeremiah Chiu, where they performed simultaneously atop vehicles traveling up to 50 mph on an airport tarmac. Tonight's performance is an extension of the musical and conceptual ideas established there.

Fuego and Chiu's instruments will simultaneously create both sonic and visual landscape as the artists' actions trigger the projection of video clips and still images, giving equal weight to the melodic score and visual output. Within the overlap of their multidisciplinary practices, new hybrid works are created. What opportunities exist for musicians who paint their scores? Or for artists who play their imagery?

## About the Artists

**Butchy Fuego** is an artist, musician, and mountaineer. He has played drums with a number of international high profile acts including M.I.A., Liars, Sun Araw & M. Geddes Gengras meet The Congos, Nite Jewel, Rainbow Arabia, and Pit Er Pat, among others. In addition, he has had the honor of playing with Yoshimi in Boredoms from 2007 to present. As a member of the band he has toured extensively with them throughout Japan, Europe, Australia, Mexico, and the U.S., performing in almost every show they have played since 2008. Fuego's collaboration with the members of the band developed into a wider variety of performances including intimate improvisational shows in the underground Japanese improv scene.

**Jeremiah Chiu** is an artist, musician, and graphic designer. He received his MFA in design from the University of Illinois at Chicago, focusing on sound visualizations through field recordings and interactive installations. In 2008, he co-founded the award-winning graphic design studio Plural, where his personal practice as an artist and musician continues to transcend the lines between art, design, and music. More recently, his piece, *Smartphone Symphony*, an audiovisual chance-music performance, was performed at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago as part of the MCA PrimeTime series.

Special thanks to Mike Ruggirello for the drone footage.

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