

For Immediate Release
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Anacostia Arts Center Welcomes Internationally Recognized Performer Jen Shyu November 4-5

(Washington, DC) Anacostia Arts Center is thrilled to bring experimental vocalist-composer, multi-instrumentalist, dancer, and producer Jen Shyu to Washington, DC for a performance of ***Solo Rites: Seven Breaths*** and her intermedia improvisation workshop ***You Are Everything***. These events are offered FREE and open to the public and made possible in through the DC Special Presenters Initiative program of Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation with support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

The performance of *Solo Rites: Seven Breaths* is on Friday, November 4 at 8 pm. The *You Are Everything* workshop will take place Saturday November 5 at 2 pm. Both events take place at Anacostia Arts Center (1231 Good Hope Road SE) and are free and open to the public. Due to limited capacity, reservations must be made in advance at anacostiaartscenter.org.

About *Solo Rites: Seven Breaths*

Shyu, an experimental Jazz artist, invites audiences to join her for a musical pilgrimage through Taiwan, China, East Timor, Indonesia, Vietnam, and South Korea. In this solo music ritual-drama, she sings in seven languages while also accompanying herself on the two-stringed Taiwanese moon lute, or the gayageum (a 12-stringed Korean zither). Her work explores the loss of voices found in traditional music and shaman rituals; the loss of habitat and wildlife and thus the linked ancient cosmology; and finally, the loss of public space, such as the submission of traditional markets and forests to malls and coal mines. These crises are explored in performance through sound, movement, and fieldwork footage, creating a land-soundscape to transport the performer and



Photo by Steven Schreiber

audience. The piece was composed by Shyu and directed by renowned Indonesian film and stage director Garin Nugroho.

About the “You Are Everything” Intermedia Improvisation Workshop:

Shyu will show video footage highlights of her from her traditional music and dance research over the last 10 years from Taiwan, Timor-Leste, Indonesia, South Korea, etc., and talk about how it inspired the creation of *Solo Rites: Seven Breaths* in collaboration with filmmaker Garin Nugroho. Shyu will then guide the group in an intensive ear and rhythm training as well as intermedia improvisation workshop for artists and non-artists, meant to give the students some tools and inspiration to pursue their own creative projects. Participants will walk away with a strategy for creating what she calls “the soul-source material” with which they can eventually create a larger work/performance.

About the Artist:

Born from Taiwanese and East Timorese immigrant parents, Shyu is an experimental jazz vocalist, composer, multi-instrumentalist, dancer, producer, and Fulbright scholar. She has collaborated with saxophonist and 2014 MacArthur Genius Fellow Steve Coleman since 2003 as well as innovators Anthony Braxton, Bobby Previte, Chris Potter, and Michael Formanek to name a few. Shyu was named “one of the most creative vocalists in contemporary improvised music” (The Nation). She has produced six albums, with her duo album with Mark Dresser making her the first female and vocalist as band leader on Pi Recordings. Her most recent album *Sounds and Cries of the World* on Pi was voted in the “Top 10 Best Albums of 2015” by The New York Times and The Nation, among others. A Stanford University graduate dedicated to traditional music study, she has performed her own music at such venues as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Brooklyn Academy of Music, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

About Anacostia Arts Center:

Anacostia Arts Center is a project of the ARCH Development Corporation, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to creating a home for small businesses, artists, arts and cultural organizations to fulfill its commitment to the revitalization and sustainable economic development of Historic Anacostia. The Arts Center is 9,300 square feet and includes a 1,000-square-foot Black Box Theater, six galleries/boutiques, and Art-Drenaline Cafe. The center opened in June of 2013.



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Additional press photos available upon request.

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