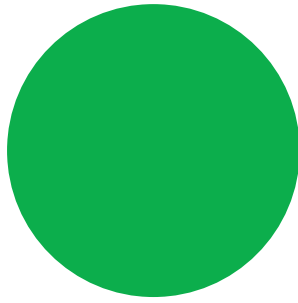
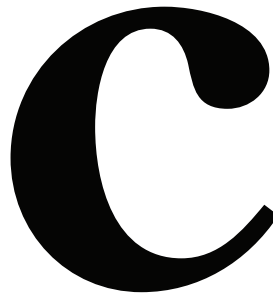




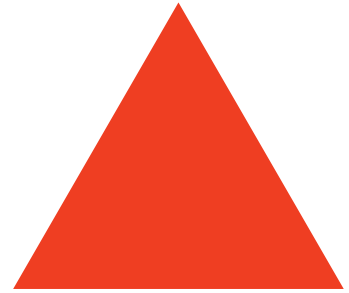
THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART
LOS ANGELES



MOCA
GRAND AVENUE



THE GEFFEN CONTEMPORARY
AT MOCA



MOCA
PACIFIC DESIGN CENTER

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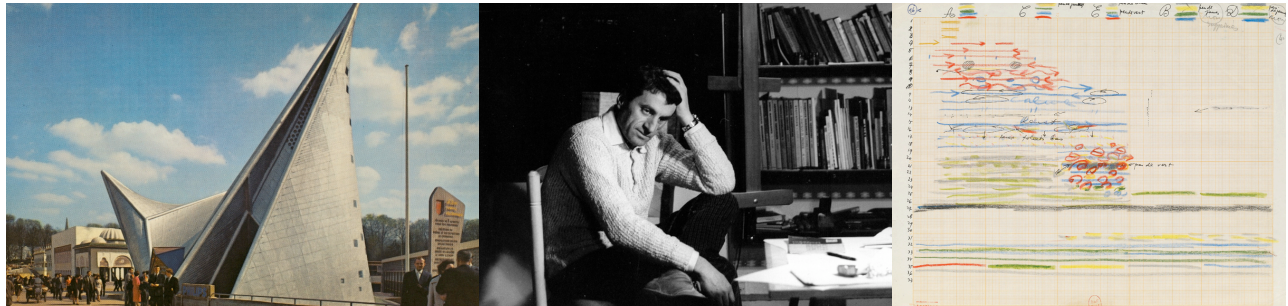
October 14, 2010

THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART, LOS ANGELES (MOCA), PRESENTS THE TRAVELING NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE OF THE SKETCHES, DRAWINGS, AND MUSICAL SCORES OF IANNIS XENAKIS

IANNIS XENAKIS

**COMPOSER
ARCHITECT
VISIONARY**

**NOV 6, 2010–FEB 4, 2011
MOCA PACIFIC DESIGN CENTER**



Los Angeles—The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (MOCA), announces *Iannis Xenakis: Composer, Architect, Visionary*, on view at the MOCA Pacific Design Center from November 6, 2010–February 4, 2011. The exhibition will explore the sketches, drawings, and musical scores of Iannis Xenakis (1922–2001), one of the most important figures in late twentieth-century music. Xenakis originally trained as an engineer and was also known as an architect, developing iconic designs while working with Le Corbusier in the 1950s.

This touring exhibition is the premiere North American presentation of Xenakis's visual work, and comprises samples of his pioneering graphic notation, architectural plans, compelling preparatory mathematical renderings, and pre-compositional sketches—in all, nearly 100 documents created between 1953 and 1984.

The exhibition will be accompanied by an ambitious schedule of public programs, concerts, and symposia around Los Angeles, including an entire weekend of events coinciding with the exhibition opening. Xenakis's pioneering, site-specific, land art spectacle, *Polytope de Persepolis*, will be presented at the Los Angeles State Historic Park on Saturday, November 6, and a rare performance of the composer's only opera, *Oresteia*, will be performed at The Wild Beast, an indoor-outdoor theater at the Herb Alpert School of Music at the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts). Other events include three days of concerts mixing electronic and high-tech sounds with extraordinary instrumental pieces by Xenakis at REDCAT (Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater); a film series; and exhibition walkthroughs with the curators.

One of the world's most widely performed contemporary composers, Xenakis brought together architecture, sound, and advanced contemporary mathematics, moving away from traditional polyphony to create music comprised of masses of sound, shifting abstract aural gestures, linear permutation, and sonic pointillism. A groundbreaking interdisciplinary approach was also apparent in his architectural creations, such as the Philips Pavilion, an icon of twentieth-century architecture, which Xenakis created under Le Corbusier for the 1958 Brussels World's Fair. The design of the Philips Pavilion's volumetric structure was inspired by the glissandi—glides between pitches—that made up Xenakis's groundbreaking orchestral work *Metastaseis* (1953-54).

The meticulously rendered works on view in the exhibition burst with kinetic energy and palpable sonic qualities, providing a singular insight into this extraordinary innovator's process of "thinking through the hand." In addition, listening stations and preloaded iPods will provide an intimate audio component to go along with the works on view, and a fully illustrated catalogue with essays by Ivan Hewitt, Carey Lovelace, Sharon Kanach, and Mâkhi Xenakis will accompany the show.

The exhibition at MOCA will be enhanced by the addition of a virtual reality recreation of *La Poème Electronique*, with images by Le Corbusier and music by Edgard Varèse, which was staged inside the Philips Pavilion. The Virtual Electronic Poem (VEP), created by an Italy-based initiative headed by Vincenzo Lombardo and co-funded by the European Union through the Culture 2000 program, allows the viewer to experience this lost masterpiece synthetically, allowing a 360-degree "view" resembling what spectators might have experienced—in this case, via a computer screen and the manipulation of a joystick. Other components added for this leg of the exhibit include documents detailing an ambitious, unrealized architectural project Xenakis designed in the 1980s and early 1990s for a Borrego Springs house for Roger and Karen Reynolds; Roger Reynolds is the retired head of the composition department at the University of California, San Diego.

Iannis Xenakis: Composer, Architect, Visionary is organized by The Drawing Center, New York. Co-curated by Xenakis scholar Sharon Kanach and critic Carey Lovelace, the exhibition

has already traveled to The Drawing Center and the Canadian Centre for Architecture in Montreal. MOCA's presentation is coordinated by MOCA Curator Bennett Simpson.

Iannis Xenakis: Composer, Architect, Visionary is organized by The Drawing Center, New York. The exhibition is made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, The Grand Marnier Foundation, and an anonymous donor.

MOCA's presentation is made possible by endowment support from The Ron Burkle Endowment for Architecture and Design Programs. Additional support is provided by The Suzanne M. Nora Johnson and David G. Johnson Foundation and Catharine and Jeffrey Soros. In-kind support is provided by Dwell, Los Angeles State Historic Park, and Grand Performances. Generous support for MOCA Pacific Design Center is provided by Charles S. Cohen.

The exhibition has been produced with the exceptional cooperation of the Bibliothèque nationale de France.

RELATED EVENTS

PERFORMANCES

Persepolis L.A.

Saturday, NOV 6, 6pm

Los Angeles State Historic Park
1245 N. Spring Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

Originally staged at the ancient site of Shiraz in Iran in 1971, this high-intensity spectacle will be the first restaging of Iannis Xenakis's site-specific, pioneering musical land art spectacle, *Polytope de Persepolis*, adapted to the Los Angeles State Historic Park. The performance will involve multiple loudspeakers, lasers, smoke, and searchlight projections, and coincide with the opening weekend of the exhibition *Iannis Xenakis: Composer, Architect, Visionary* at the MOCA Pacific Design Center.

INFO 213/621-1745 or education@moca.org

FREE; no reservations required

Oresteia

Sunday, NOV 7, 4pm

The Wild Beast at the Herb Alpert School of Music at CalArts

The Herb Alpert School of Music at CalArts presents an outdoor performance of the final version of Iannis Xenakis's only opera, *Oresteia*. This West Coast premiere includes performances by baritone Paul Berkolds, an adult chorus, a children's chorus, and a chamber ensemble.

INFO 661/253-7816

FREE; no reservations required, lawn seating

CEAIT Festival: Iannis Xenakis: Now and Tomorrow

Friday, JAN 28, 8:30pm

Saturday, JAN 29, 8:30pm

Sunday, JAN 30, 7pm

REDCAT (Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater)

Three concerts mix electronic and high-tech sound events with extraordinary instrumental pieces by Iannis Xenakis, the legendary pioneer of music and architecture. These different programs feature new pieces by composers inspired by Xenakis along with the artist's own multi-channel electronic works, multiple realizations of game strategy pieces, landmark instrumental compositions, and his arresting *Pour la Paix*, a gripping statement about war for actors with vocal and electronic sounds. Guest artists include renowned cellist Rohan de Saram, composer Curtis Roads, electronic diffusion specialist Daniel Teige, and remix and sound artist Takuro Mizuta Lippit (aka dj sniff). In addition to the performances, A Forum: Hearing and Seeing Xenakis features guest speakers interspersed with world premiere videos of Xenakis's own commentary and demonstrations.

INFO 213/237-2800 or www.redcat.org

A Forum: Hearing and Seeing Xenakis

Saturday, JAN 29, 3pm

Sunday, JAN 30, 1pm

MOCA Grand Avenue, Ahmanson Auditorium

Sharon Kanach, Mark Menzies, Curtis Roads, David Rosenboom, and many more.

INFO 213/237-2800 or www.redcat.org

FREE; no reservations

FILMS

Xenakis Film Series, Part I

Sunday, NOV 21, 3pm

MOCA Pacific Design Center, SilverScreen Theater

Charisma X (2009)

Directed by Efi Xirou

La Légende d'Eer (1977-1978)

Remastered tapes by Gerard Pape. Directed by Bruno Rastoin.

Xenakis Film Series, Part II

Sunday, JAN 2, 3pm

MOCA Grand Avenue, Ahmanson Auditorium

Orient-Occident: Images d'une Exposition (1960)

Directed by Enrico Fulchignoni. French with English subtitles.

Something Rich and Strange (1991)

Written, produced, and directed by Mark Kidell/BBC and RM Arts.

INFO 213/621-1745

ART TALKS

A Walkthrough of Iannis Xenakis: Composer, Architect, Visionary with Co-Curator Carey Lovelace

SUNDAY, NOV 14, 3pm

MOCA Pacific Design Center

INFO 213/621-1745 or education@moca.org

FREE; no reservations required

Co-Curator Sharon Kanach discusses Iannis Xenakis

Thursday, JAN 27, 6:30 pm

MOCA Pacific Design Center

INFO 213/621-1745 or education@moca.org

FREE; no reservations required

IMAGES ABOVE (L-R): Iannis Xenakis, Philips Pavilion, c. 1958, postcard, 4 x 6 in., Iannis Xenakis Archives, Clichés Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris; Iannis Xenakis in his studio, Paris, c. early 1960s, archival exhibition print, 35 x 35 in., collection of Françoise Xenakis, photo by Adelman; Iannis Xenakis, Study for Polytope de Montréal (light score), c. 1966, ink on paper, 9 1/2 x 12 1/2 in., Iannis Xenakis Archives, Clichés Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Iannis Xenakis was born in 1922 in Braïla, Romania, and died in 2001 in Paris, France. A Greek Resistance fighter in World War II, he fled to France as a political refugee in 1947. Having obtained an engineering degree from the Athens Polytechnic Institute, he collaborated with Le Corbusier in Paris from 1947-1959. From 1950-1953, while working with the noted architect, he studied composition at the Paris Conservatory under Olivier Messiaen. Xenakis's collaboration with Le Corbusier as an engineer and architect yielded innovative projects such as the Couvent de La Tourette (1955) and the Philips Pavilion at the Brussels World's Fair (1958). Xenakis was also a speculative thinker, the author of such books as *Formalized Music: Thought and Mathematics in Composition; Music and Architecture*; and *Arts/Sciences: Alloys*. He was the founder (1965) and director of the Center for Studies of Mathematical and Automated Music (CEMAMu) in Paris; associate professor of electronic music and founder and director of the Center for Mathematical and Automated Music (CMAM) at Indiana University in Bloomington (1967-72); researcher at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) in Paris (1970); Gresham Professor of Music, City University London (1975); and professor at the University of Paris (1972-89). Iannis Xenakis was awarded the Kyoto Prize in 1997, considered the Nobel Prize of Music, and the Polar Prize in 1999.

ABOUT THE CURATORS

Iannis Xenakis: Composer, Architect, Visionary is co-curated by Sharon Kanach and Carey Lovelace. Sharon Kanach, a Paris-based new music specialist who worked closely with Xenakis until the end of his life, has edited and translated several books of his writings. New York-based critic Carey Lovelace is co-president emeritus of the International Association of Art Critics, U.S. Chapter, and a writer for *Art in America*, *Artforum*, and other publications. Lovelace, formerly an avant-garde composer, and Kanach both attended Xenakis's legendary class, which he led from 1972 through 1989 at the Université de Paris I.

THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART, LOS ANGELES (MOCA)

Founded in 1979, MOCA's mission is to be the defining museum of contemporary art. The institution has achieved astonishing growth in its brief history—with three Los Angeles locations of architectural renown; more than 14,500 members; a world-class permanent collection of

nearly 6,000 works international in scope and among the finest in the nation; hallmark education programs that are widely emulated; award-winning publications that present original scholarship; and groundbreaking monographic, touring, and thematic exhibitions of international repute that survey the art of our time. MOCA is a private not-for-profit institution supported by its members, corporate and foundation support, government grants, and retail and admission revenues. MOCA Grand Avenue and The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA are open 11am to 5pm on Monday and Friday; 11am to 8pm on Thursday; 11am to 6pm on Saturday and Sunday; and closed on Tuesday and Wednesday. General admission is \$10 for adults; \$5 for students with I.D. and seniors (65+); and free for MOCA members, children under 12, jurors with I.D., active military, and everyone on Thursdays from 5pm to 8pm, courtesy of Wells Fargo. MOCA Pacific Design Center is open 11am to 5pm Tuesday through Friday; 11am to 6pm on Saturday and Sunday; and closed on Monday. Admission to MOCA Pacific Design Center is always free. For 24-hour information on current exhibitions, education programs, and special events, call 213/626-6222 or access MOCA online at moca.org.

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MEDIA CONTACTS

Lyn Winter, director of communications
Tel 213/633-5390
lwinter@moca.org

Jessica Youn, pr coordinator
Tel 213/ 633-5322
jyoun@moca.org