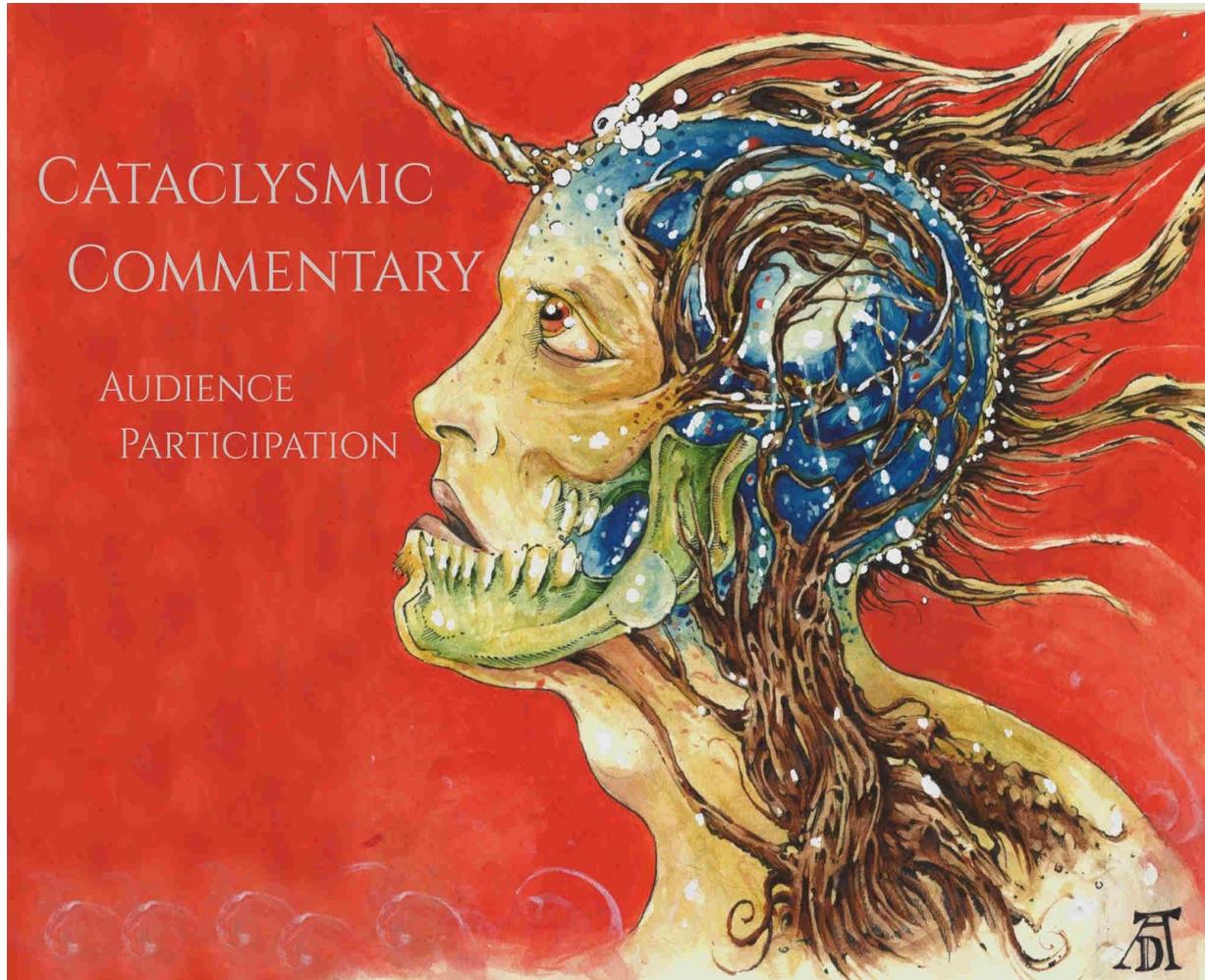


Cataclysmic Commentary

March 26, 2018

For immediate release

Eschatology Records is announcing the debut release from Cataclysmic Commentary, **Audience Participation**.



This album represents the culmination of over two years of rehearsing, gigging and refining a group sound that is simultaneously recognizable yet enigmatic. The album **Audience Participation**, recorded live in front of an audience, involved getting fans, friends and loved ones to submit potential song titles in advance of the record date. The submission list was refined down to a handful of the best titles, that were then used as a prompt for improvisation. The result is an album of contrast: at times aggressive and energetic, pensive and brooding, humorous and heart felt.

CATACLYSMIC COMMENTARY



Ben Cohen, tenor saxophone
Eli Wallace, acoustic piano
Dave Miller, drums and cymbals

Cataclysmic Commentary is a malleable and dynamic new trio of improvising musicians based in New York City. Living in a world of rapidly changing political and socio-economic permutations, they were founded with the premise of integrating these socio-political narratives into their work, sculpting every set according to the particular challenges of the time rather than relying on an established book of rotely rehearsed material. This manifests in a diversity of repertoire from completely free improvisation, to compositions by members of the ensemble, to pieces by select influential musicians, to folk songs from around the world. All of the works directly relate to and portray a response to the challenges of our current epoch. Cataclysmic Commentary brings awareness and attention to the challenges faced as inhabitants of Planet Earth through a chameleon approach that is ever exploring, asking questions, and adapting accordingly through their music.

Dave Miller is a drummer, improviser and educator with work spanning the avant-garde, free jazz, experimental and improvisational music. Significant projects having toured worldwide include Tzadik recording ensemble PET BOTTLE NINGEN (with Nonoko Yoshida and David Scanlon), GSI Studio band KARL 2000 (with Daniel Rovin and Austin White), and Legendary American producer Martin Bisi (whose credits range from Herbie Hancock to Sonic Youth, Afrika Bambata to John Zorn, The Dresden Dolls, or Material with Bill Laswell). Miller's work is based in acoustic drum and percussion aesthetics with predominantly improvisational performance ideology. Having spent a decade based in New York City (with many long residencies in Japan), constantly various musicians are involved in new musics. Major collaborators include Daniel Carter, David Schnug, Satoko Fujii, Chuck Bettis, Natsuki Tamura, Jonas Labhart, Blaise Siwula, Ryan Clackner, SEM Ensemble with Roscoe Mitchell and Marco Cappelli's ITALIAN SURF ACADEMY (which collaborate with vocalist Shelley Hirsch and guitarist Marc Ribot, respectively.) Raised in Grinnell, Iowa and a graduate of the prestigious music program at William Paterson University in New Jersey, Miller is also an avid chef with a passion for Japanese and modern-fusion cuisines. He teaches music lessons privately, works as a dance accompanist at the prestigious Barnard College Dance Department, and releases private works on his DIY label Dried Orange Records.

Eli Wallace is a pianist, improviser, composer, and curator who calls Brooklyn, NY his home. A recent transplant from Oakland, CA, he has quickly become involved in the New York improvised and creative music scene, leading his concept project Slideshow Junky, participating in the collective trio Cataclysmic Commentary, performing solo, and working with numerous musicians with a similar predilection, such as Daniel Carter, Billy Mintz, Trevor Dunn, and Ches Smith. He also continues to be a huge contributor to Dialectical Imagination, the piano/drum duo led by musical mastermind Rob Pumpelly. As a composer, he's written for numerous instrumentations, and received commissions from Contra Costa College, Lawrence University, and dancer Randee Paufve. His musical education was granted by Lawrence University, Appleton WI, and New England Conservatory, Boston, MA, where he completed a Bachelor's of Music, and a Master's of Music, respectively.

Ben Cohen is a Brooklyn based saxophonist and composer. After growing up in rural Tennessee, Ben went to the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, where he studied with such luminaries as Jerry Coker and Donald Brown. After graduating, he moved to NYC where he continued his education under the tutelage of Ellery Eskelin. Now a regular on the Brooklyn creative music scene, Ben performs with Daniel Carter, Deric Dickens, Danny Fisher-Lochhead, John Merrit, Kenny Warren, Zach Clarke and many others. He leads his saxophone trio Viriditas and his record label Eschatology Records.