



## Celebrate John Cage

L. Brandon Vicario-Krall

*Not only had the music of our time ceased to resemble that of yesterday, but moreover, the category of music itself, the definition of this art form, has been overthrown...."*

*Daniel Charles*

*....the underlying principle...that music and dance could be separate entities independent and interdependent, sharing a common time...John Cage and I are involved in a process of work and activity, not in a series of finished objects...*

*Merce Cunningham*

The 10<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary of John Cage's death was commemorated by a participatory concert/event held at the Gary Tatintian Gallery in Chelsea on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November. Emanuel Pimenta, William Anastasi, Dove Bradshaw, Peter Zummo, Denardo Coleman, Joseph Baptista, Jo Locandro, Richard Mauro and others contributed performative tributes to the master's celebration. An exhibition of early colorist sculpture by Geroge Sugarman lent an elegant and modern *mis en scene* to the event. Anastasi enacted a *Drop Drawing* wherein a pen tied to a long string is dropped repeatedly onto a sheet of paper, while seated atop a 6' ladder wearing headphones. This activity lent a metronomic pulse to improvisations enacted by the musicians with keyboard, wind, drum and guitars and in the case of Mauro, a table full of assorted sound making props including a drill, sifter, soda cans that he crushed and neatly arrayed martini glasses that he thoughtfully smashed with a hammer. Bradshaw, stationed at a pedestal perpetuated her *Fire* piece which involves the collection since 1976 of spent .38, 45 & 9 mm bullets from a local Police firing range. The fascinatingly deformed bullets were offered to visitors from a Fire bucket full. Bradshaw studiously inscribed black velvet jewelry cases with an infinite edition number, date and signature to house the spent bullets. Willoughby Sharp seemed to be doing a newspaper tear piece and a man called Africa performed minimal art surgery on his hand with a scalpel and diamond-like stones over a piece of white fur while numerous videographers strolled about the space shooting the various activities. An atmosphere full of subtle and liberating invention that we inherit from Cage whose spirit lives.

*Soft magnolia buds in November  
Poems thought not writ  
Thoroughness like water*

*L. Brandon Vicario-Krall*