

Media Release March 2008

HARRY SMITH ANTHOLOGY REMIXED

Sensoria Festival, Sheffield, UK

Opening: Friday 4 April 2008, 6.30-8.30pm

Exhibition: 4 – 18 April 2008

Venue: The Workstation Mezzanine, Paternoster Row, Sheffield

The resulting drawings, paintings, photographs, texts, scrawls, gloops, doodles, collages and comic strips are as gloriously primitive as their musical forbears, embracing Smith's free thinking psychedelic sensibilities

Plan B magazine

Harry Smith Anthology Remixed starts its UK tour at Sensoria in Sheffield, a new festival fusing film and music.

The exhibition brings together the work of 84 leading artists and musicians, who have been invited to make a visual artwork in response to 1 track each from the groundbreaking music release *The Anthology of American Folk Music*. The Anthology was edited by seminal New York artist, musicologist and experimental filmmaker Harry Smith, and first published by Folkways in 1952.

The Anthology was comprised entirely of recordings issued between 1927 (the year electronic recording made accurate reproduction possible) and 1932 when the Depression stifled folk music sales. The Anthology is considered to be one of the most important collections of information in modern society, creating a folk canon and contributing to numerous folk revival movements.

This exhibition aims to create a new visual collection of the Anthology, to continue the collective history and revival of the work, as seen through the eyes of contemporary visual artists and musicians. The exhibition includes artists from the Europe, Japan and the US, reflecting a diverse and exciting range of practice including: visual art, outsider art, comic book, design, craft and illustration.

Exhibition curated by Rebecca Shatwell.

Contributing artists include:

- Major figures from the current new folk scene including **Animal Collective**, **Espers** and **Feathers**
- Seminal British folk singer **Vashti Bunyan**
- Members of the psychedelic and freak folk scene such as Yamataka EYE of Japanese noise band **Boredoms**, John Olson of **Wolf Eyes** and C. Spencer Yeh of **Burning Star Core**
- Legendary soundtrack composer and musician **Michael Nyman**
- Innovative artists collectives from the US including: **Royal Art Lodge**, **Paper Rad** and **Dearraindrop**
- British artists including: **Jonathan Allen**, **Marcus Coates**, **Graham Dolphin**, **Iain Forsyth and Jane Pollard**, **Luke Fowler**, **Juneau Projects** and **Ross Sinclair**
- Outsider visual artist and member of Half Japanese **Jad Fair**
- Author, prankster and founder of the KLF **Bill Drummond**
- **Paul D. Miller aka DJ Spooky**, hip hop musician and turntablist

For further press information and images please contact Rebecca Shatwell at rebecca@altgallery.org / 07789 305841

Notes to Editors:

alt.gallery is a gallery in Newcastle upon Tyne presenting international work by artists working at the intersection of visual art, music and sound. It is curated by Rebecca Shatwell and based within alt.vinyl record shop. The gallery website is www.altgallery.org

Sensoria Festival, is the UK's new festival of film and music taking place in Sheffield at Showroom Cinema and various venues across the city from 12 – 18 April 2008. For more information see: www.sensoria.org.uk

The Wire magazine, are media sponsors of alt.gallery, www.thewire.co.uk

alt.vinyl is a music business based in Newcastle upon Tyne, comprising of record store, label, online music retail and gig promotion activities. For more information see the alt.vinyl website at www.altvinyl.com or email info@altvinyl.com

Anthology of American Folk Music was edited by Harry Smith, it was first released by Folkways in 1952 and re-issued in 1997. Harry Smith used the new LP technology to create an unbroken sequence of songs, divided into three colour-coded sets, which represented three elements: air, fire and water. Each of the 1952 sets incorporated an antique engraving of a single stringed instrument being tuned by a hand reaching down from the heavens. The Anthology reflects Harry Smith's interest in mysticism, patterning and alchemy. The 84 tracks compiled are recognised as the cornerstone of the American folk revival of the 1950s and 1960s. In 1991 this achievement was acknowledged when he received a Grammy Award, at which he proclaimed 'I'm glad to say my dreams came true. I saw America changed by music'. For more information about the Anthology see: http://www.folkways.si.edu/learn_discover/anthology/anthology.html The exhibition has been organised in consultation with the Harry Smith Archives, for more information see www.harrysmitharchives.com

Harry Smith Anthology Remixed the list of artists includes: Dave Allen, Jonathan Allen, Diane Barcelowsky, Marcia Bassett, Eric Beltz, Hisham Bharoocha, Jesse Bransford, Vashti Bunyan, Jelle Crama, Jaron Childs, Rob Churm, Marcus Coates, Karen Constance, Christian Cummings, Dearraindrop, Arrington di Dionyso, Graham Dolphin, Bill Drummond, Jorn Ebner, Espers, Peter Evans, Yamataka EYE, Jad Fair, Feathers Family, Kyle Field, Alec Finlay, Devin Flynn, Iain Forsyth and Jane Pollard, Luke Fowler, Chris Graham, Susie Green, Doug Harvey, Rama Hoffpauir, Dan Howard-Birt, Zoe Irvine, Rich Jacobs, Juneau Projects, Seth Kelly, Jeffrey Lewis, Linder, Derek Lodge, Lone Twin, Robert AA Lowe, Ant Macari, The Matinee Orchestra, Maya Miller, Gean Moreno, Heather Leigh Murray, Michael Nyman, Dylan Nyoukis, John Olson, John Orth, Paper Rad, Mike Paré, Plastic Crimewave, Dave Portner, Devin Powers, Adam Putnam, The Rebel, Ginnie Reed, Clare E Rojas, Chris Rollen, Arik Roper, Giles Round, Royal Art Lodge, Mathew Sawyers, David Sherry, Ross Sinclair, DJ Spooky, Andre Stitt, Philip Taaffe, Vernon & Burns, Daryl Waller, Flora Whiteley, Michael Wilson, Simon Woolham, Andrew Jeffrey Wright, C. Spencer Yeh, Yokoland, :zoviet*france:

Listings Information:

Harry Smith Anthology Remixed
Friday 4 April – Friday 18 April
Sensoria Exhibitions, The Workstation, Paternoster Row, Sheffield, S1 2BX, UK

www.sensoria.org.uk / info@sensoria.org.uk
www.altgallery.org / mail@altgallery.org

Opening hours: 10am-7pm daily
Admission Free

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