

The Museum of Modern Art

No. 138

Friday, December 27, 1968

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 245-3200 Cable: Modernart

THE MACHINE AND NATURE, an audio-visual concert, will be held at The Museum of Modern Art on January 15 and 16 at 8:30 p.m. in connection with the exhibition THE MACHINE AS SEEN AT THE END OF THE MECHANICAL AGE. The program opens with Jean Dupuy's concert "Chorus for Six Hearts" using a machine as the musical instrument and closes with a performance called "Chambers" composed by Alvin Lucier for conch shells.

A large variation of Jean Dupuy's Heart Beats Dust, which is currently on view in THE MACHINE show, is the major performer during the first half of the program. The machine, which is six times larger than the construction exhibited in the galleries, operates on the same principle: dust, enclosed in a glass-faced cube and made visible by a light beam of high intensity, is activated by acoustic vibrations produced by the rhythm of heart beats, breathing, vocal chords, and pulsations. Mr. Dupuy will be assisted by five people connected to the machine by stethoscopes. The concert is presented at the Museum through a generous grant from the Celanese Corporation.

Following an intermission, during which coffee will be served, Alvin Lucier will give an environmental concert composed for conch shells. The shells are played like trumpets by eight performers, including Mr. Lucier and his wife, and are moved through various sized portable resonant environments created by the performers. "Chambers" was composed in May 1968 in La Jolla, California, but is continuously changed and varied by different performers making different versions.

Jean Dupuy was born in Moulin, France, in 1925 and studied architecture at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. He began to paint in 1944. Since 1963 his work has been seen in about a dozen exhibitions in France, Spain, Germany, Belgium, and Luxembourg. His first American exhibition was held in 1966 at Knoll Associates in New York City and included both painting and sculpture. Last year French television presented a special program on "Twelve Sculptures in Wood" by Mr. Dupuy. He has been a resident of the United States since 1967.

(more)

Alvin Lucier was born in Nashua, New Hampshire, attended Yale and Brandeis Universities, and from 1960 to 1962 lived and composed in Rome on a Fulbright Scholarship. Since then he has been a member of the faculty of Brandeis University as Director of the Electronic Music Studio and Director of the Brandeis Choral Union and the University Chamber Chorus. With the latter ensemble he has premiered and recorded numerous important works by Earle Brown, John Cage, Morton Feldman, and others. Mr. Lucier's electronic works have been performed extensively in Europe and the United States by the Sonic Arts Group of which he is a member. The score for "Chambers" appears in the first 1969 issue of Rapport.

Tickets for each evening are available from the Museum for \$3.50; \$2.60 to Museum members.

Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, and Linda Gordon, Coordinator, Public Services, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. 245-3200.