

JOHN MORTON

Fever Songs

June 7 – October 28, 2018

Exhibited in the Garden at Edward Hopper House

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (NYACK, NY)

For hi-res images and more information, contact: press@hopperhouse.org, 845-358-0774

Edward Hopper House Museum & Study Center is pleased to present “Fever Songs,” an interactive sound installation by John Morton to be installed in the back garden at 82 North Broadway, Nyack, NY. Fever Songs focuses on the variety of chants, incantations, songs, and vocalized text found in religious expression throughout the world. It is a commingling of ritual and scriptural vocalization, recorded live whenever possible, woven together and sonically altered by ever-changing computer processing and sensor-proximity location. Fever Songs is a multi-channel sonically encompassing musical experience, where the audience is free to wander in a specified space. As they move about, sensors will calculate proximity & control aspects of the audio output. The actual sonic choices (samples) are woven together, harmonized, commingled and overlapped by computer.

The installation will be devoid of doctrine. Rather, it is a bringing together of the commonality of the human ecstatic experience. Morton explains that he is deeply moved by the cultural and vocal expressions of various religions – “whether it be chant, drone, incantation, speaking-in-tongues, call-and-response, etc. Once religious text has moved into the musical, there is a sense of meaning that becomes aesthetic rather than doctrinal. To my ears, it is something all religions share.”

Vocal material for Fever Songs was gathered and recorded from vocalists/practitioners in New York State and throughout the Northeast/Mid-Atlantic region in the following religious communities: Tibetan Buddhist, Haitian, Abenaki, Christian, Hindu, Islamic, and Jewish. Morton will be incorporating location recordings gathered by other musicologists as well.

Born in Los Angeles, Morton studied privately with David Sheinfeld in San Francisco and then attended the California Institute of the Arts, where he studied with Morton Subotnick and Lucky Mosko. For the last 10 years, Morton has been creating large-scale installations that involve direct public interactivity and are based on a particular time and place. In 2014, *Usonia*, created in collaboration with media students from the Jacob Burns Media Lab was part of the sound festival “Garden of Sonic Delights” at Caramoor. In 2017, he exhibited a new interactive work, *Backchannel*, at ODETTA Gallery in Brooklyn. Prior to its installation at the Edward Hopper House, Fever Song was presented at ODETTA Gallery from April through May of 2018. Morton currently lives and works in Tappan, New York.

Fever Songs is a fiscally sponsored project of NY Foundation for the Arts, and has received support from NYSCA, The Foundation for Contemporary Art, and Symbol Audio.



THE EDWARD HOPPER HOUSE was the primary residence of Edward Hopper (1882-1967) until 1910. Since 1971 it has preserved the iconic American artist’s birthplace and encouraged community engagement with the arts. **GALLERY HOURS:** Wed.-Sun., 12-5 PM. Open until 8 PM on the First Friday of each month. **ADMISSION:** Free for members and 16 & under; \$2 students 17 & above; \$5 seniors; \$7 adults. Free for all visitors on the First Friday of each month. Additional fee for private tours. Discount packages available at Metro North: mta.info/mnr/html/getaways/outbound_edward_hopper.

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