

SUN RA RA

a nonsequential sound installation in three acts.

(ACT 3) Previously unreleased recordings of the traditional Haitian Rara song **Fize Nimewo Nèf** as performed by the rara band Kod Kreyòl in downtown Port-au-Prince in December 2015.

(ACT 2) Sun Ra's masterpiece **Rocket Number Nine** most probably recorded in Port-au-Prince sometime in the early 1960s and released on Sun Ra's own Saturn label in 1966.

(ACT 1) **Rakete Nummer Neun**, a new track by Vienna-based sound artist Masha Dabelka.

The project is inspired by the apocryphal story that Sun Ra – the legendary African American jazz pioneer, mystic, poet, activist, and philosopher – travelled to Haiti and visited Port-au-Prince during his 'lost years' in the 1960s.

Also on view: **The Sun Ra in Haiti Library** – a makeshift collection of music, video, and printed matter that reveals Tom Bogaert's ongoing attempt to survey Sun Ra's legacy in Haiti.

On his first visit to the Ghetto Biennale in Haiti, Belgian artist Tom Bogaert heard something familiar in the rara marching music that was being played in the streets of Port-au-Prince. Already doing work on the interplanetary jazz legend Sun Ra's visit to Egypt in the early 1970s, Bogaert read in the dog-eared pages of an old copy of the Lonely Planet that Sun Ra was also rumoured to have visited Haiti, perhaps ten years earlier, during his so-called 'lost years.'

It was even said that Sun Ra might have composed his masterpiece *Rocket Number Nine*, in Port-au-Prince. What Bogaert heard in the streets made him believe this could be true and, even more so, he found out that *Rocket Number Nine* has its roots in the traditional rara song *Fize Nimewo Nèf*.

Bogaert collaborated with the local rara band Kod Kreyòl to study and rehearse the somewhat forgotten *Fize Nimewo Nèf*, and a Clocktower Radio sound engineer recorded some of the early morning practice sessions that took place in the garden of the Oloffson Hotel. A while later, Kod Kreyòl performed *Fize Nimewo Nèf* at a now legendary concert in downtown Port-au-Prince featuring Masha Dabelka and her *Rakete Nummer Neun*.

Tom Bogaert stopped practicing international refugee law and moved to New York City to pursue a career as an artist. He had his first solo exhibition in 2008 with the mythical 'Jack the Pelican Presents' gallery and relocated to Amman, Jordan soon thereafter. Bogaert has widely exhibited in Europe, the US, the Middle East, and North Africa—mainly and proudly in artist-run and non-profit venues. He was awarded First Prize at the Videoex film festival in Zurich, Switzerland for his experimental documentary about the legendary jazz pioneer Sun Ra and his infamous visit to Egypt: 'pepsi,cola, water?' – Tom Bogaert is one half of the collaborative Haitian Belgian art duo Lafleur & Bogaert.

Thank you! **Kod Kreyòl:** Arnaud Lauture (Chef d'orchestre – Maestro Tambourineur) Josil Joseph Rebert (Adjoint Tambourineur) Jean Ernst (Tambourineur) Nadine Frédérique (Chanteuse – Lead Vocal) Béatrice Frédérique (Chanteuse – Chœur) Vladimir Grégoire (Maestro du Cornet) Remy Robenson (Maestro du Cornet) Jules Ceremond (Cornet) George Elie Voyard (Cornet) Nestor Ricardo (Cornet) and Annel Saintermont (Grage) **Ghetto Biennale:** Andre Eugene, Leah Gordon, Lazaros, Liz Woodroffe, Cat Barich, Evel Romain, Maccha Kasparian, and Claudel Casseus. **Sound:** Richard Arthur Fleming **Album covers:** Michel Lafleur, Patrick Elie, Brinele James Telus, Leah Gordon, Zé Kielwagen, Kwynn Johnson, Jean Louis Lens, Michael K. Taylor, Radhika Khimji, Anna Sebastian, Lee Lee, Jean Robert Alexis, Mackendy Tidé, JRM, Henrike Neuman, Steve Thales, Alexandre Esther, Gustavo Caboco, Jerry Jonatan, Gina Cunningham, Alexon Istia, and Jean-Claude Saintilus.

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