



DEANTONI PARKS

Thursday, November 30, 2023, 7 and 9 PM

Cube



NO-NO BOY

Thurs., Feb 1, 7:30 PM

**10 MOSS
ARTS
CENTER**
10TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

Julian Saporiti details the Asian American experience through his innovative songwriting and multi-media project, No-No Boy.

The Nutcracker

presented by the Blacksburg Ballet

Saturday, December 7

1:00 pm and 6:00 pm

tickets on sale beginning September 1

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BALLET

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DEANTONI PARKS

Programmed by Guest Curator Shirlette Ammons

Deantoni Parks, better known as Technoself, is the musical embodiment of free will, consciousness, and intelligence. Parks has crafted a tool for discovery as Technoself that is exemplified through new-wave experimental drumming and progressive ways of thinking. Parks shares the source code for Technoself within his performance-based experience, called Technoself Immersive.

Co-sponsored by the Black Cultural Center

DEANTONI'S SELF

This is a love story about acoustic drums and dynamic samples melding in real time.

I was enjoying my favorite American lager at my most faithful watering hole in Durham, North Carolina, my home for over a decade. The weekend-long Slingshot Music Festival was underway and I was debating whether or not I'd attend. A musical acquaintance approached me mid-sip and asked if I had plans to check out any of the acts in the stacked electronic line up. I admitted that I had sunken into the comfort of my current perch but, if I were to venture, I would love to catch the set of this weird Black cat, Deantoni Parks, who was headlining the following night. He enthusiastically responded, "Oh. Deantoni. He's right over there," pointing towards the bar where a small mob was vying for the bartender's attention. Deantoni was patiently waiting amidst the cast of regulars. Before I could catch myself, I blurted, "Oh shit!" at a relatively high volume, and took a big nerve-calming gulp of my American lager. Deantoni, clutching his beverage, sauntered over rocking a full-face smile. We introduced ourselves and spent the next hour(s) taking shots of tequila, sucking limes, and routing our Southern and musical roots. At the heart of our connection were our overlapping influences and my knowledge of his powerful catalog of innovative music. Over cocktails and cackling, this Black, avant virtuoso hailing from the sticks of Georgia — whose work I worshiped — became immediate kin.

There is no easy introduction to Deantoni's resume. He's provided the backbeat for luminaries like Lenny Kravitz, the Mars Volta, and Sade, all of whom defined their musical moment via stringent personnel and signature sounds. However, Deantoni's constant metamorphosis propels him towards a bold, defiant fusion of

acoustic and electric percussive components. He invented a lane for his own musings as a creator of the technoself method (*Technoself* is also the title of his awe-inspiring debut album). Equal parts cosmic percussionist and mad scientist, Deantoni crafts real-time remixes in a one-man, mind blowing experience that merges sampling and live drumming. As a result, no two performances are ever the same.

If this world were to run low on wonders, Deantoni could easily step in to fill the void. His masterful marriage of human and machine is organic, holistic, and captivating to witness. Some advice: when entering Deantoni's universe, relieve yourself of efforts to "get it." Deantoni's live performance is about building an improvised, momentary vibe. Let yourself succumb to his boundless free fall.

— *Guest Curator Shirlette Ammons*



BIOGRAPHY

DEANTONI PARKS

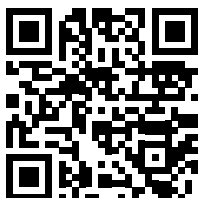
Drummer, composer, and producer Deantoni Parks probably didn't initially intend to create a new instrument and a revolutionary way of creating music from the outset. Parks' musical and technical facility as a drummer is innovative enough for artists like John Cale (the Velvet Underground), Meshell Ndegeocello, Omar Rodríguez-López (the Mars Volta), and Flying Lotus to seek him out. He could have easily ridden out the capital-D-Drummer-life, but behind the scenes, Parks has been looking for more. "For those of us that are trying to become better every day, reinvent every day and not get pigeonholed, it's important to be able to have new outlets and new ways to come up with unique results," Parks said.

Concurrently, music technology and access to it has exponentially increased, as have the ways in which we can create music — instrumentalists now have an unprecedented opportunity to become instrument builders.

Thus, Technoself was born. Technoself is both an instrument and musical philosophy developed by Parks that has become a core part of his artistic practice. It has evolved into a Tech Arts Fair and a private academic hub, Technoself School of Philosophy, which features a living curriculum based on the Technoself principles.

This is the first performance by Deantoni Parks at the Moss Arts Center.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!



We'd love your feedback on this performance. If you complete the short survey, you can enter for a chance to win two tickets to Blacksburg Master Chorale on Sunday, December 17, 2023. bit.ly/deantoni-parks-feedback

ENGAGEMENT EVENT

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29 **DISCUSSION AND DEMONSTRATION**

Students active in VTDITC: Hip-Hop Studies at Virginia Tech gained insight into Deantoni Parks' performance practice through this demonstration of his unique combination of sampling and live drumming.

Special thanks to the Black Cultural Center, Studio 72, VTDITC: Hip-Hop Studies at Virginia Tech, Craig Arthur, Kayley Carter, Kimberly Clark, Olivia Coutre, Charles Nichols, and Freddy Paige

GO DEEPER

"Sampling" in music is a process where an artist will excerpt different cuts of music and sound from existing sources and reconfigure those excerpts into new songs. Parks says that "[how you sample] is kind of the barometer of where you are in music today... I look at myself like a diamond cutter when it comes to sampling" (*Liquid Music*). Where do you hear samples in Parks' music? How do you interpret the meaning or value of those samples?



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PERFORMANCES | EXHIBITIONS | EXPERIENCES

IN THE GALLERIES

THROUGH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17



william cordova

can't stop, won't stop: tenets of southern alchemy

Ruth C. Horton Gallery

william cordova examines the visual aspects of transition and displacement, studying the evolution and adaptation of objects and perception across time and space. Constructing artworks composed of reclaimed elements, paint, gold leaf, and collage, cordova presents encoded representations of social systems and the material histories of objects and images.

THROUGH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17



Laurie Steelink

Spirit Is Alive, Magic Is Afoot

Miles C. Horton Jr. Gallery and Sherwood Payne Quillen '71
Reception Gallery

Multidisciplinary artist Laurie Steelink is a citizen of the Akimel O'otham Nation and a member of the Gila River Indian Community. Exploring connections to her Native American roots, Steelink creates assemblages of found objects and reassembled paintings to question authenticity and consider spirituality. Using her creativity to reconnect with and to reference her ancestors, culture, and community, Steelink defines her work as an expression of her personal identities.

K-12 PROGRAMS AT THE MOSS ARTS CENTER

At the Moss Arts Center, we believe that arts experiences are a crucial part of a child's education. We've been dedicated to providing opportunities for children at no cost since we opened in 2013. A wide array of Moss programming and experiences to inspire, engage, and empower students of all ages and backgrounds. This season, we're offering five school-day matinee programs, in-school workshops and performances, and gallery tours with professional artists for learners of all ages.

Learn more at bit.ly/moss-K12.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Moss Arts Center's four-story experimental Cube is recognized as one of the world's first full-scale big data exploration facilities. The \$15 million theatre and high-tech laboratory is a highly adaptable space for research and experimentation in data exploration, immersive environments, multimedia performances, audio and visual installations, and experiential investigations of all types. The Cube is a space shared between the Moss Arts Center and the Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Virginia Tech acknowledges that we live and work on the Tutelo / Monacan People's homeland, and we recognize their continued relationships with their lands and waterways. We further acknowledge that the Morrill Land-Grant College Act (1862) enabled the commonwealth of Virginia to finance and found Virginia Tech through the forced removal of Native Nations from their lands in California and other areas in the West.

LABOR RECOGNITION

Virginia Tech acknowledges that its Blacksburg campus sits partly on land that was previously the site of the Smithfield and Solitude Plantations, owned by members of the Preston family. Between the 1770s and the 1860s, the Prestons and other local White families that owned parcels of what became Virginia Tech also owned hundreds of enslaved people. Enslaved Black people generated resources that financed Virginia Tech's predecessor institution, the Preston and Olin Institute, and they also worked on the construction of its building.

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2023-2024 SEASON

Saturday, December 2, 4 PM
Roanoke Symphony Orchestra
Holiday Pops Spectacular

Sunday, December 17, 4 PM
Blacksburg Master Chorale
Messiah

Tuesday, January 23, 7:30 PM
Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra
with Wynton Marsalis

Wednesday, January 31, 7:30 PM
Cirque Mechanics
Zephyr: A Whirlwind of a Circus

Wednesday, February 14, 7:30 PM
Broadway in Blacksburg
My Fair Lady

Thursday, February 1, 7:30 PM
No-No Boy

Saturday, February 24, 7:30 PM
Mark Morris Dance Group
The Look of Love

Tuesday, February 27, 7:30 PM
An Evening with
Elizabeth Kolbert

Friday, March 15, 7:30 PM
Meshell Ndegeocello

Wednesday, March 20, 7:30 PM
Sō Percussion
with Caroline Shaw
and special guest Shodekeh

Tuesday, March 26, 7:30 PM
Las Cafeteras

Thursday, April 4, 7:30 PM
Ukulele Orchestra
of Great Britain

Saturday, April 13, 7:30 PM
Les Ballets Trockadero
de Monte Carlo

Wednesday, April 17, 7:30 PM
Small Island, Big Song

Friday, April 26, 7:30 PM
Bamberg Symphony
Jakub Hrůša, conductor
Hélène Grimaud, piano

Saturday, May 4, 7:30 PM
An Evening with Leslie Odom, Jr.



***Small Island,
Big Song***

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— *Billboard Asia, Japan*

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Thursday, December 14, 2023
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YMCA AT VIRGINIA TECH



The YMCA VPI Golden Triangle Award is just over an inch long and stands for mind, body and spirit, a unity of purpose and balance that is essential to lives committed to service.

The Fellowship of the Golden Triangle was started in 1928 as a way to recognize men and women who contributed appreciably to Virginia Tech's campus and community through their involvement with the Y. It includes such illustrious members as Julian A. Burruss, Ellison A. Smyth, Walter S. Newman, John Whittemore, Charlie Yates, Leander Deitrich, George Litton, & Paul Reaves. You may recognize these names from several campus buildings!

The Golden Triangle award was begun in 1928 by Daniel Bowden, who was the Student President of the YMCA at the time.



Meet the Y Team

Jackie Neyra

Senior majoring in Biological Sciences, minor in Public Health, Pre-Dental track.

YMCA at Virginia Tech Program Leader for Meals On Main.

I love spending time with the kids and seeing MOM's impact on the NRV Valley community. I feel privileged and grateful to be a part of something as impactful as the YMCA.

My favorite part of the Y is the great sense of community between programs and the NRV. We are constantly helping and supporting one another to find ways to improve access to resources and support within our community. The 150th anniversary of the Y at Virginia Tech is a huge milestone. The Y has given so much to the campus and community over these years. Accomplishing this milestone is a big achievement!

Some fun things about me: I love to bake, go hiking, spend time with my dog, go to the gym, and crochet from time to time. I wish I could crochet more, but it can be difficult to find time!

Meet more Y Team members in the next MAC program!



Spencer E. Lowry

YMCA at Virginia Tech Board Member

VP of Commercial Lending (NRV) at Freedom First Credit Union

My favorite thing about the Y is our understanding of the diverse community we serve. We offer programming to children, adults, & the elderly. By casting a wide net, we are capable of reaching individuals and families who may otherwise go unserved. We've proven, over 150 years, that we are committed to growing our positive impact, and appreciate the continued support of our community in helping us do so.

150 years of service is a testament to the Y's commitment to this community. Through tragedy and triumph, the Y has been here supporting VT and the surrounding community at every turn. The Y has made it to 150 years as a result of truly living out its mission statement, building community through learning, leadership, and service.

I'm looking to further integrating myself with the YMCA and offering support wherever necessary. Though I'm not originally from Blacksburg, with over a decade of living in the NRV, it's truly become home. I'm looking to doing my part to help keep the Y and it's efforts sustainable.

