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## THE NEW MUSEUM TO PRESENT PERFORMANCES RELATING TO CHAOS SCIENCE

"Strange Attractions: An Evening of Chaotic Performance," featuring The Wooster Group, Blue Man, Elliott Sharp, and Orshi Drozdik, will be presented by The New Museum of Contemporary Art on Monday, November 6 at 7:30 PM in the Museum's galleries. Tickets are \$10 for general admission. This program is being held in conjunction with the exhibition Strange Attractors: Signs of Chaos, a group show on view at The New Museum through November 26 exploring the relationship between contemporary art and the emerging science of chaos.

"Strange Attractions" suggests that interest in the chaotic--in chance and in disordered states and structures--has been an important force in the field of performance. The works in this program reflect the chaotic climate of contemporary culture, making heightened reference to the increasingly fragmented nature of external experiences, such as the tumultuous effects of constantly changing technology in our lives.

The Wooster Group, whose non-linear, seemingly illogical approach to dramatic structure results in a theatrical "collage" embracing the arbitrary, will present the opening section from The Road to Immortality, Part 3: Frank Dell's The Temptation of St. Anthony. The monologue, to be performed by Ron Vawter, is based on Gustave Flaubert's The Temptation of St. Anthony. Wooster Group members will be seen in videos shown on monitors suspended above the stage, competing with the live performer for the audience's attention. This orchestration of conflicting visual and aural sensations mirrors the often haphazard ways in which external stimulæ are actually experienced.

Blue Man, a three-person performance group consisting of Chris Wink, Matt Goldman, and Philip Stanton, will present a series of short works examining the state of culture in an information society. Incorporating the striking computer graphics of fractal geometry--an area of study within chaos science--the group will combine visual art, music, and performance in its analysis of mass

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culture, consumption, and waste. Appearing on stage in identical personas--blue faced, bald-headed, and mute--Blue Man serves as a collective "Everyman," silently taking part in society's unfettered desire for new cultural icons.

Elliott Sharp, a much acclaimed New York-based musician and composer, will be joined by other musicians to present the string quartet "Hammer, Anvil, Stirrup." Sharp's approach to musical composition employs the repetition of simple formulas--much like fractal mathematics--to produce random arrangements that are rich and complex. In his search for constant transformation of timbre and texture, Sharp has often experimented with the principles of fractal geometry.

Orshi Drozdik, whose sculpture is also included in the exhibition Strange Attractors, will present a work entitled "Genius--Diseases of the Genius (Genius as Disease)," examining the inherent obsolescence of scientific knowledge as well as the ideology of artistic genius. Contrasting portraits of great figures from the world of science with decaying brains, Drozdik suggests the sometimes hostile relationship between science and nature. The random manner in which natural materials decay is a fitting foil to the equally random way in which scientific knowledge is rendered obsolete.

Tickets for "Strange Attractions: An Evening of Chaotic Performance" are \$8 for Museum members and \$10 general. Because seating is limited, reservations are strongly encouraged and may be made by calling 212/219-1222.

Funding for this program has been provided in part by MTV Networks.

The New Museum of Contemporary Art is located at 583 Broadway between Prince and Houston Streets in Soho. Hours are Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday, noon to 6 PM; Friday and Saturday, noon to 8 PM; Monday and Tuesday, closed. Admission is by suggested contribution: \$3.50 general; \$2.50 artist/student/senior; members and children under 12, free. Recorded information on exhibitions and programs is available by calling 212/219-1355.