

CORCORAN

GALLERY OF ART • COLLEGE of ART + DESIGN

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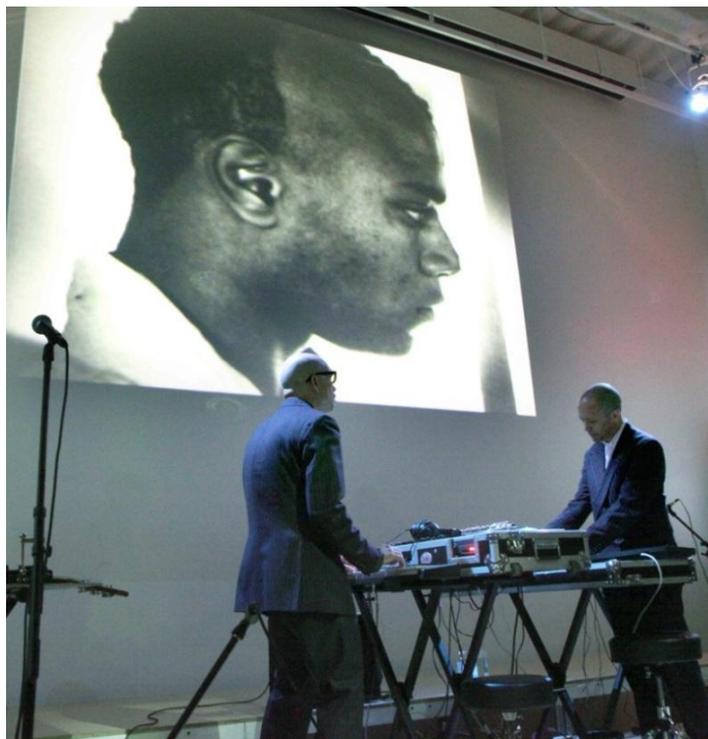
CORCORAN PRESENTS *GRAY LIVE AT THE CORCORAN* *Washington, D.C. debut for the experimental band* March 25, 2012

WASHINGTON, D.C. – This March, join the **Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design** for the premier live musical performance by **Gray**, an experimental acoustic-electronic music band, on **Sunday, March 25, 2012 at 4 p.m.** Originally conceived by artists Michael Holman and Jean-Michel Basquiat in 1979 and reconfigured in 2010, Gray joins the Corcoran to celebrate the life and work of Jean-Michel Basquiat, one of the artists featured in the Corcoran’s landmark 2011 exhibition *30 Americans*.

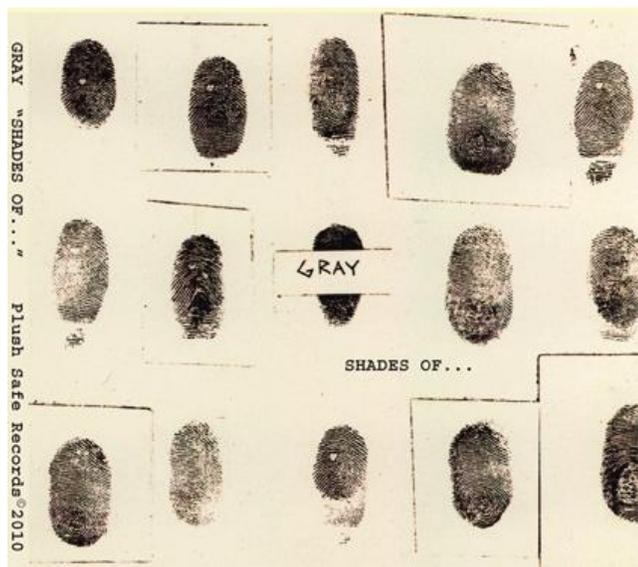
Curated by local artist Adrian Loving, *Gray Live at the Corcoran* will feature a re-incarnation of the short-lived but legendary group by Michael Holman and Nicholas Taylor. Gray will perform compositions from *Gray...Shades Of*—the 2010 release of 27 original tracks including original dialogue by Basquiat—in addition to never-before-heard tracks.

“This rare performance by Gray complements the screening of *Downtown 81* that was part of the *Downtown Scene NY*” said Loving, referring to the film series he organized last fall at multiple venues, including at the Corcoran. “With this performance, the Corcoran pays homage to Basquiat and continues its commitment to presenting cutting-edge art, visual performance, and music to its diverse audiences.”

Tickets for *Gray Live at the Corcoran* cost \$25 for Corcoran members; \$30 for the public; \$15 for non-Corcoran students; and are free for Corcoran students, staff, and faculty. Pre-registration is required. A reception sponsored by Chairman’s Reserve Rum will be held after the performance at the Corcoran. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit <https://getinvolved.corcoran.org/graylive>.



ABOUT THE ARTISTS



As original members of the Downtown 1980's sound/noise group Gray, Michael Holman and Nicholas Taylor reunited in 2010 to produce the first Gray album ever, titled *Gray...Shades Of*, on their own label, Plush Safe Records. The release harks back to Gray's sonic roots—industrial noise melded with electronic atmospheres. This 27-track compilation includes and involves tracks from Gray's earliest recordings and performances, with samples of Basquiat's music and voice.

Both Holman and Taylor enjoy careers as fine artists, entrepreneurs, filmmakers and, educators. **Michael Holman** is represented as a painter and video artist by the White Walls Gallery in San Francisco; his latest film, "Gray, Live at the New Museum," was screened at Miami Basel, 2011. He teaches screenwriting at the School of Visual Arts in New York City. Holman wrote the screenplay to the film *Basquiat* (1996) and writes art criticism for *Art Monthly Magazine* and other art publications. He frequently participates in panels involving contemporary American popular culture. Also a hip-hop pioneer, Holman recently wrote and directed Tommy Boy's 30th anniversary performance at the Montreux Jazz Festival.

As a composer, **Nick Taylor** has collaborated with William S. Burroughs and actor Jeffrey Wright to create "Suicide Hotline Mode" for the soundtrack to the film *Basquiat*, worked with Michael Holman to create tracks for the Basquiat documentary *Radiant Child* and the feature film *Downtown 81* (featuring Debbie Harry on vocals), and released his own album, *Passion and Danger/Original High Priest*, which he wrote and produced. His collection of photographs, *Jean-Michel Basquiat through Nicholas Taylor*, was exhibited at the St. Martins Lane Hotel Gallery in London (2009), and Studio Hz in Copenhagen (2007). As a DJ, Taylor has toured with Death Comet Crew in 2005–06 and with Rammellzee in 2005.

ABOUT THE CURATOR

Washington, D.C., native Adrian Loving is the curator of the landmark film series *Downtown Scene NY* (2011), which focuses on New York City's legendary underground art and music scenes from the late 1970's to mid-1980's. Over the years, Loving has cultivated key relationships with artists such as Charlie Ahearn, Michael Holman, Maripol, Fab 5 Freddy, and Vernon Reid, among others. His curatorial work extends to Washington, D.C.-area museums and galleries such as the Smithsonian's Museum of African Art, the National Gallery of Art, and the Phillips Collection. Additionally, Loving's past programming of arts events and arenas has been instrumental in connecting creative and professional communities in Washington, D.C. He is the co-founder of Dissident Display Gallery in northeast D.C., and his performances and interests often focus on the fusion of music, art, film, and multimedia.

Loving has created the musical soundtrack for events in Washington, D.C., New York, Miami, San Francisco, and abroad, including The W Hotel, Black Entertainment Television, Downtown DC.org, Art Basel, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Modern Luxury Magazine, and the Italian Embassy of Washington. He currently works as a professor of Graphic Design at Marymount University and has been featured in *The Washington Post*, *Ebony Magazine*, *Washingtonian*, *DC Modern Luxury*, and *Capitol File*.

ABOUT THE CORCORAN

The Corcoran Gallery of Art, a privately funded institution, was founded in 1869. It was America's first dedicated art museum and today is Washington's largest nonfederal museum of art. It is known internationally for its distinguished collection of historical and modern American art as well as contemporary art, photography, European painting, sculpture, and the decorative arts. In addition, a dynamic schedule of special exhibitions is complemented and enhanced by a range of educational programming, which together seek to enrich perspectives, support the local arts community, and encourage interpretation. **The Corcoran College of Art + Design** was founded in 1890 and stands as Washington's only four-year college of art and design, offering BFA degrees in Digital Media Design, Fine Art, Fine Art Photography, Graphic Design, Interior Design, and Photojournalism; a BA in Art Studies; a five-year Bachelor of Fine Arts/Master of Arts in Teaching (BFA/MAT); an AFA in Digital Media Design, Fine Art, Graphic Design, and Photography; and MA degrees in Art and the Book, Art Education, Exhibition Design, Interior Design, Master of Arts in Teaching, and New Media Photojournalism. The College's Continuing Education program offers part-time credit and non-credit classes for children and adults and draws more than 2,500 participants each year. For more information about the **Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design**, visit www.corcoran.org.



Images:

Page one: Photo courtesy of Michael Holman. Performance of Gray, Live at New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York City 2011.

Page two: Photo courtesy of Michael Holman.

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