

BANG ON ▶ CAN



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Press contact: Maggie Stapleton, Jensen Artists
646.536.7864 x2, maggie@jensenartists.com

Bang on a Can Presents the Artists at Noguchi Series Featuring Balún



Friday, September 6, 2019 at 6pm
The Noguchi Museum | 9-01 33rd Road | Long Island City, NY

Performance is free as part of The Noguchi Museum's First Free Friday, and seating is available on garden benches and floor mats on a first-come, first-served basis. More information: noguchi.org/bangonacan.

Watch the music video for Balún's "[La Nueva Ciudad](#)" from their album *Prisma Tropical*

www.bangonacan.org | www.balunonline.com

New York, NY — On **Friday, September 6, 2019 at 6pm**, **Bang on a Can** and **The Noguchi Museum** conclude their 2019 monthly summer concert series with Balún, a self-proclaimed "dreambow" ensemble whose members hail from Puerto Rico. This evening performance is included as part of Free First Friday, when Museum admission is free all day with extended hours until 8pm. The performance will take place in The Noguchi Museum's outdoor sculpture garden (9-01 33rd Road). In case of rain, the concert will move to the galleries.

Balún broke out of the San Juan indie scene a decade ago and has since undergone a formational odyssey through the industry, academia, and the stateside Puerto Rican experience. Though currently residing in New York City, island culture remains the cornerstone of their forward-thinking, malleable sound. Balún incorporates Caribbean rhythms, old school dembow, glitchy IDM and dreamy dance pop into tunes that are slick and modern but firmly rooted in the traditional sounds of their homeland.

Balún's long-awaited sophomore album *Prisma Tropical* focuses an incredibly wide field of genres and influences into a revelatory sound that evokes both of the band's homes and the distance between them. Heavy doses of tiple, bomba barrel drum, and dembow work alongside loops and layers of shimmering synths to accomplish something explicitly of the island, yet fluent in the language of global pop. Tied together around the magical realism of singer Angélica Negrón's lyrics, Balún's deep understanding of reggaeton's Jamaican dancehall roots has transformed their shoegaze pop into "dreambow."

Prisma Tropical was released July 20, 2018 (Goodchild Music) and premiered on NPR's *First Listen*. Their single "La Nueva Ciudad" premiered on Remezcla and was Spotify Latino's Song of the Day, breaking into the Viral Charts globally and in eight countries including Spain, Mexico, Chile, and Argentina. *Prisma Tropical* was one of NPR's Top 50 Albums of 2018; placed

No. 4 in Rolling Stone's Top 10 Latin Albums of 2018; and The New York Times named the single "Años Atrás" one of the "Best 65 Songs of 2018".

About Artists at Noguchi: Bang on a Can curates an eclectic supermix of music performances in its ninth summer of programming at The Noguchi Museum. The 2019 Bang on a Can Artists at Noguchi series featured musicians performing an inclusive blend of music from across genres and across the world. Past performers this summer were jazz guitarist Miles Okazaki; guitar and percussion duo 75 Dollar Bill; and Laraaji, presenting mystical and uplifting zither improvisations.

Tickets: The September 6 performance is free as part of First Free Friday and seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Beer for Artists at Noguchi | Bang on a Can Music Series is generously provided by **Big aLICe Brewing Co.** More information available at 718.204.7088 or www.noguchi.org/bangonacan. The Noguchi Museum is located at 9-01 33rd Road (at Vernon Boulevard), Long Island City, NY.

About Bang on a Can: Bang on a Can is dedicated to making music new. Since its first Marathon concert in 1987, Bang on a Can has been creating an international community dedicated to innovative music, wherever it is found. With adventurous programs, it commissions new composers, performs, presents, and records new work, develops new audiences, and educates the musicians of the future. Bang on a Can is building a world in which powerful new musical ideas flow freely across all genres and borders. Bang on a Can plays "a central role in fostering a new kind of audience that doesn't concern itself with boundaries. If music is made with originality and integrity, these listeners will come." (*The New York Times*)

Bang on a Can has grown from a one-day New York-based Marathon concert (on Mother's Day in 1987 in a SoHo art gallery) to a multi-faceted performing arts organization with a broad range of year-round international activities. "When we started Bang on a Can, we never imagined that our 12-hour marathon festival of mostly unknown music would morph into a giant international organization dedicated to the support of experimental music, wherever we would find it," write Bang on a Can Co-Founders Michael Gordon, David Lang and Julia Wolfe. "But it has, and we are so gratified to be still hard at work, all these years later. The reason is really clear to us – we started this organization because we believed that making new music is a utopian act – that people needed to hear this music and they needed to hear it presented in the most persuasive way, with the best players, with the best programs, for the best listeners, in the best context. Our commitment to changing the environment for this music has kept us busy and growing, and we are not done yet."

Current projects include Bang on a Can's new festival, **LOUD Weekend**, a fully loaded eclectic super-mix of minimal, experimental and electronic music running August 2-4, 2019 at MASS MoCA in North Adams, Massachusetts; **The People's Commissioning Fund**, a membership program to commission emerging composers; the **Bang on a Can All-Stars**, who tour to major festivals and concert venues around the world every year; recording projects; the **Bang on a Can Summer Music Festival at MASS MoCA**, a professional development program for young composers and performers led by today's pioneers of experimental music; **Asphalt Orchestra**, Bang on a Can's extreme street band that offers mobile performances re-contextualizing unusual music; **Found Sound Nation**, a new technology-based musical outreach program now partnering with the State Department of the United States of America to create **OneBeat**, a revolutionary, post-political residency program that uses music to bridge the gulf between young American musicians and young musicians from developing countries; cross-disciplinary collaborations and projects with DJs, visual artists, choreographers, filmmakers and more. Each new program has evolved to answer specific challenges faced by today's musicians, composers and audiences, in order to make innovative music widely accessible and wildly received. Bang on a Can's inventive and aggressive approach to programming and presentation has created a large and vibrant international audience made up of people of all ages who are rediscovering the value of contemporary music.

About The Noguchi Museum: Founded in 1985 by Isamu Noguchi (1904–1988), one of the leading sculptors and designers of the twentieth century, The Noguchi Museum was the first museum in America to be established, designed, and installed by a living artist to show their own work. Widely viewed in itself as among the artist's greatest achievements, the Museum comprises ten indoor galleries in a converted factory building, as well as an internationally acclaimed outdoor sculpture garden. Since its founding, it has served as an international hub for Noguchi research and appreciation. In addition to housing the artist's archives and catalogue raisonné, the Museum exhibits a comprehensive selection of sculpture, models for public projects and gardens, dance sets, and his Akari light sculptures. Provocative, frequently-changing installations drawn from the permanent collection, along with diverse special exhibitions related to Noguchi and the milieu in which he worked, offer a rich, contextualized view of Noguchi's art and illuminate his enduring influence as a category-defying, multicultural, cross-disciplinary innovator.

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