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CONTACT: Erin Mooney
Moxy PR
267.788.2196
erin@moxyp.com

BERMAN MUSEUM CELEBRATES URSINUS COLLEGE 150th ANNIVERSARY WITH DOUGLAS HENDERSON'S *MUSIC FOR 150 CARPENTERS*

Following an October 26 invite-only performance, exhibition runs through March 15, 2020.

COLLEGEVILLE, Pa. (Sept. 19, 2019) — In celebration of [Ursinus College](#)'s 150th anniversary, the [Berman Museum of Art](#)'s 30th anniversary, and the many individuals who have collaborated in the building of these remarkable institutions, the museum will present artist **Douglas Henderson**'s performance piece *Music for 150 Carpenters* on October 26.

"This immersive sound performance will honor our history and our community, while encapsulating what it means to be part of an academic community," said Berman Museum director Charles Stainback. "Henderson challenges viewers to not just view the work but to participate in its creation, much the same way we challenge students to engage with ideas at Ursinus."

A Berlin-based multimedia artist, Henderson works with electroacoustic sound and sculptural installations, considering both the sensual aspect of what we hear and its role as a culturally charged material with social import. Based on Henderson's *Music for 100 Carpenters*, first conducted in 2009 in Brooklyn, this site-specific, multimedia piece will include a 30-minute live performance, where the audience will sit in the center of the Main Gallery. Surrounding them along the perimeter will be 150 carpenters, consisting of not only professional, regional carpenters, but local artists; museum professionals; and Ursinus faculty, staff, and students.

Henderson will compose an immersive sound performance featuring 150 workers, 150 sawhorses, 150 hammers, and some 10,000 nails, working in unison to create a unique score.

Under the guidance of job supervisors, the sounds of construction will become waves of tonal murmur throughout the gallery. Tool belts, sweat, and lunchboxes will also be a part of the score that celebrates the college's anniversaries with pomp, while acknowledging the diverse sources of physical and intellectual labor that are at the core of every academic and art institution.

"Confined to a limited sonic palate, I focus on architectural drama to move the music forward," Henderson said. "As the piece progresses, a palpable sonic transcendence emerges: the physical actions of the performers cease to match the cloud of sound that they generate. The sensual reality of the piece finally evades the meanings and structures it invokes."

At the conclusion of the main event, a multichannel, aerial view video and audio recording of the live performance will be projected onto the gallery floor, alongside the construction installation, through March 2020.

There is an opening reception for the exhibition on Thursday, Nov. 7 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the museum.

Also on view through March 2020 is David Scher's *The Tool-bag Years*, featuring works on paper by David Scher, friend and creative peer of Douglas Henderson.

Visit ursinus.edu/berman for more information about the exhibition and performance.

ABOUT THE BERMAN MUSEUM

As a museum on the campus of a liberal arts college, [The Philip and Muriel Berman Museum of Art](#) fosters a greater understanding of the place of the visual arts in the learning process and in society at large. Located on the Ursinus College campus and accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, The Philip and Muriel Berman Museum of Art is open Tuesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and closed on Mondays. Admission is free.