

Christine
Sun Kim
Deaf Death

DEPARTMENT OF

Visual Arts

Thursday, February 19
Luth Concert Hall
Prior Presents 2025–26

PRIOR
Performing Arts Center

Welcome

Dear Friends,

Reframed. In a recent American Sign Language workshop, attended by the entire Prior team, an opportunity to reframe one's lens was introduced. The very nature of the presentation changed the way in which we thought about presenting. For example, an appreciation for the loss of personal connection associated with traditional auditorium seating grew inside me. Might we not all be better off seated in the round, whereby the reactions and subtle human expressions that say volumes about our feelings, intent, and state are so effortlessly communicated, would be made the easier to spot? How might we all benefit from the lesson of attention paid to the person speaking with you, without the distraction and rudeness of technical and auditory competing interests? How can eye contact lead to one feeling more "heard?"

Gifted. Beyond the catalog of meaningful and poignant art that stems from this evening's guest, the conscience consideration of the impact of communication as a whole is a gift to us all. The purposeful dialogue about our place in the world. Our connections to each other. The very context of communication itself, regardless of mode. The gift that comes from self-evaluation of daily practice, assumptions, and beliefs is here delivered through a keen set of observations and experiments.

Informed. Sound can be something that is taken for granted: its creation and its absorption. It can be a crutch; over-dependence can lead to superficiality or more damaging, misinformation. As with sound, so too with societal norms or stereotypes. Having a guide to explore more thoroughly the entire landscape of any discussion, in this case the universe of Deaf culture, leads to a more informed state of being enriching one's life experience.

Enjoy tonight's journey,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey de Caen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Jeffrey de Caen
Nancy Savage Skinner '79 Director
Prior Performing Arts Center

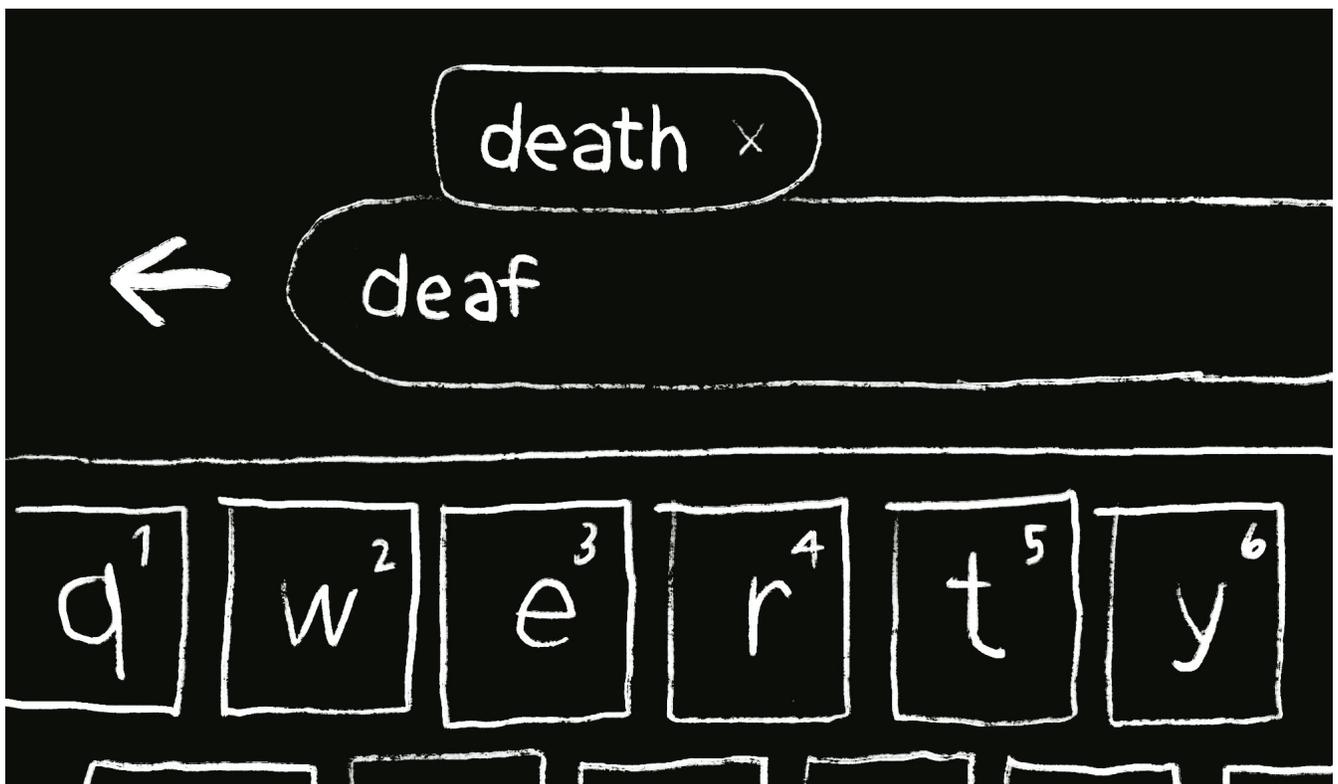
Program

Christine Sun Kim
Deaf Death

Program Notes

In this lecture-performance, artist Christine Sun Kim uses the frequent smartphone auto correction of “Deaf” to “death” as a point of departure. From this linguistic coincidence, she draws out a media study of representations of Deaf culture across film while weaving in her observations on disability signage, Deaf history, and much more.

Through images, humor, and incisive commentary, *Deaf Death* questions what defines disability, ingrained cultural desires that visualize the elimination of Deaf culture, and how different definitions reflect fears and hopes for the future.



Biography

Christine Sun Kim is an American artist based in Berlin. Kim's practice considers how sound operates in society, deconstructing the politics of sound and exploring how oral languages operate as social currency. Musical notation, written language, infographics, American Sign Language (ASL), the use of the body, and strategically deployed humor are all recurring elements in her practice. Working across drawing, performance, video and large scale murals, Kim explores her relationship to spoken and signed languages, to her built and social environments, and to the world at large.

Kim has exhibited and performed internationally, including at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2025); Gwangju Biennale (2023); Secession, Vienna (2023); Queens Museum, New York (2022); the Drawing Center, New York (2022); the Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt (2021); Manchester International Festival, Manchester (2021); MIT List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge (2020); Whitney Biennial, New York (2019); Buffalo AKG Art Museum, Buffalo (2019); Art Institute of Chicago (2018); San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (2017); De Appel Arts Center, Amsterdam (2017); Berlin Biennale (2016); Shanghai Biennale (2016); MoMA PS1, New York (2015) and the Museum of Modern Art, New York (2013), among numerous others. Kim's awards and fellowships include an MIT Media Lab Fellowship, a United States Artists fellowship, a Ford and Mellon Foundations' Disabilities Future Fellowship, and the Prix International d'Art Contemporain of the Fondation Prince Pierre de Monaco. Her works are held in numerous prominent collections, including the Museum of Modern Art, New York, LACMA, Tate Britain, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, and the Whitney Museum of American Art, among others. She is represented by Francois Ghebaly Gallery and WHITE SPACE.



Photo by Mark Abramson

The Prior Performing Arts Center

An uncommon commons for transformative experiences with the arts

Prior Presents

The keystone of the Prior Performing Arts Center's public-facing programming, Prior Presents merges thrilling live events by visiting artists with robust educational and outreach activities. Defined by exceptional artistic quality, interdisciplinary impulses, and the potential to spark both wonder and reflection, this annual series celebrates artistic risk-taking and the exchange of ideas and perspectives from around the globe. Short- and long-term visiting artist residencies include performances, artist talks, installations, workshops, and experiential learning opportunities for Holy Cross students and the greater Worcester community.

The internationally acclaimed artists of current and previous seasons embody our vision for artist residencies at The Prior Performing Arts Center. Their performances and lectures offer an exhilarating complement to the creativity and innovation of emerging student artists and Holy Cross faculty and staff also featured in our season this year.



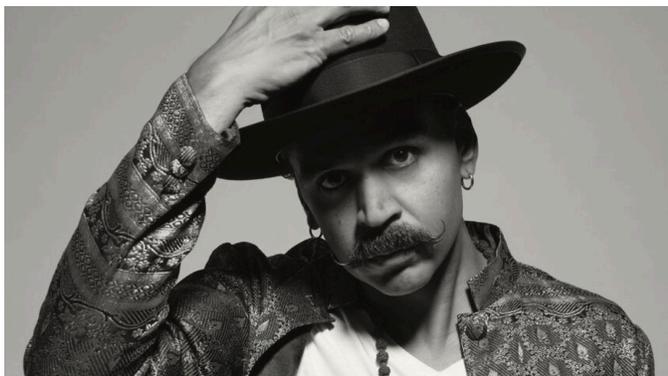
1) Rhiannon Giddens in concert | Spring 2024; 2) Compagnie Hervé Koubi | Spring 2024

Stay in touch!



Scan to sign up for our email list and stay up to date with announcements and upcoming events from The Prior Performing Arts Center.

Upcoming Prior Presents Events



Sunny Jain | *Wild Wild East*

Composer, drummer and dhol player Sunny Jain celebrates cultural diaspora and the interconnectedness of global styles with his band in *Wild Wild East*, a raucous, powerful, and jubilant recognition of a truly American spirit.

A co-presentation with the Department of Music.

Mar 12 @ 7:30 p.m. | Tickets \$35 | \$45 | \$55



SWING OUT

Acclaimed choreographer Caleb Teicher brings the best of the swing dance world to The Prior. With live music by the Eyal Vilner Big Band, SW!NG OUT features exciting Lindy Hop choreography and improvisation. Each performance concludes with an on-stage jam session, inviting audiences to join in the fun!

Mar 19 @ 7:30 p.m. | Tickets \$35 | \$45 | \$55



yMusic

yMusic is a genre-leading American chamber ensemble renowned for its innovative and collaborative spirit. Praised by NPR Music as “deeply, profoundly skilled,” yMusic has been tapped to lend their orchestral sound and instantly-recognizable style to recordings and concert projects by a dizzying array of popular artists from John Legend to Paul Simon.

Mar 29 @ 6 p.m. | Tickets \$35 | \$45 | \$55



Scan to purchase tickets and learn more about our schedule of upcoming presentations.

Currently at the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Art Gallery



Impetus: Visual Arts Faculty 2026

The faculty of the Studio Art program at Holy Cross are fundamental to the student creative experience. In addition to teaching and mentoring, these faculty members maintain a vibrant studio practice outside of the classroom and conduct scholarly research in areas ranging from the environment, feminism, the spectacle of religion, the body, memory and consumerism. Featuring work by Rachelle Beaudoin, John Carney, Marcus Clarke, Hilary Doyle, Colleen Fitzgerald, Matthew Gamber, Anna McNeary, Victor Pacheco, Cristi Rinklin, and Leslie Schomp.

Open now through Apr 8

Cantor Window Exhibition

Visit *Mind Touch Touch Touch* (2025, digital print of charcoal drawing), a mural by Christine Sun Kim in the Window Exhibition at the Cantor Art Gallery!

Repetition and iteration define Christine Sun Kim's work, which distinctly incorporates the visual representation of sign language. This mural was made exclusively for the Cantor's front window and comes from a body of work that combines text and graphic representations of signs in American Sign Language (ASL). Here, Kim depicts the arc of the hand movement in the sign *obsess*, which is a compound formed by the signs for *mind* and *touch*.

On display through Apr 8

Upcoming Events from the Arts Ecosystem at Holy Cross

Faculty Recital: *Rhythms of Spring*

DEPARTMENTS OF MUSIC AND THEATRE & DANCE. Faculty pianists Sonya Ovrutsky Fensome, Matthew Jaskot and Ulysses Loken join forces with The Diamonds, a faculty dance group led by Jimena Bermejo, to present an invigorating program of music for two pianos and dance.

Mar 21 @ 7 p.m.

Curiouser and Curiouser

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE. In *Curiouser and Curiouser*, inspired by *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass* by Lewis Carroll, creator and director Lynn Kremer collaborates with Balinese artists for an evening that is sure to charm audiences of all ages.

Apr 16-26



Scan to purchase tickets and learn more about our schedule of upcoming presentations.

Interpreters

Beth Staehle
Donnie Gibbons
Christopher Tester '03, PhD

Prior Performing Arts Center Staff

Jeffrey de Caen, *Nancy Savage Skinner '79* Director

ARTIST & ENGAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

Marta Beyer, Manager of Artistic and Engagement Initiatives
Morgan Fitzpatrick, Office Coordinator

PRODUCTION SERVICES

Elliot Cetinski, Production Technician
Matthew Freije, Pro Audio/Video Supervisor
Charlie Glaudini, Pro Audio/Video Technician
Christine Goguen, Costume Shop Manager
Stephen McGonagle, Technical Director
Judi Olson, Costume Shop Assistant
Mason Parece, Production Technician
Betsy Pierce, Assistant Technical Director

GUEST EXPERIENCE & OPERATIONS

Katrina Lewonczyk, Manager of Operations & Administration
Ethan Bates, Arts Marketing & Communications Manager
Evan Crocker, Event & Front of House Manager
Morgan Fitzpatrick, Office Coordinator

STUDENT STAFF

Students play a crucial role in the operation of the Prior Performing Arts Center, working as Production Assistants, Front of House Assistants, and more: Adele Feldberg, Alyshia Solomon, Andrea Gomez, Angela Almanza, Anna Rowley, Brigit O'Connell, Camila Müller-Juez, Elise O'Neill, Emily Fox, Emma Buchanan, Frank Amuso, Gabriellie De Gouveia, Gracie Lopez, Jamie Schmid, Jazmin Lopez, Kiera Ryan, Laurel Deneen, Maya Pinto, Morgan Kane, Nadia Frempong, Natalia Salinas, Rose Knoll, Sophia Rowley, Adelaide Abstoss, Alejandro Irizarry, Alexa Rodriguez Villatoro, Atiya Woolman, Billy Suter, Brandon Curtis, Daniel Hickey, Eliza Simpson, Emelia Jones, Emily Karlson, Emma Butler, Fiona Nelson, Gail Durkin, Gracyn Epstein, Irene Mandile, Jake Sidell, Joshua Love, Julia Divine, Katelyn Murphy, Lee (Leah) Varela, Lily Jaramillo, Luis Ramirez, Margaret DeWald, Maxim Tereshchenko, Melina Valencia, Meredith Brady, Meredith Shaw, Natalie Gasowski, Nevaeh Fleming, Osmaly Bonilla, Paige Thomson, Phoebe Wong, Piper Guiney, Savannah Rhodes, Scarlett Dawson, Sebastian Torres, Sofia Corvo, Solar (Ciara) Bello, Sophia Tran, Sophia Suffoletto, Sophie Sundaram, Vivian Higgins, Xiaoyi Wang, Yasmin Fernandez