

MARFA MYTHS WILL KEEP WEST TEXAS ON ITS TOES

By Alexander Mason Hankin— April 20, 2018



Wire will bring their influential sounds to Marfa April 12-15
Photo by Owen Richards

Music Festivals are in many ways, becoming the norm in today's music world. Now that corporations have gotten involved, there aren't too many festivals that are worth the trek to make it to nowadays. Of course, when you look at the heavy curation behind Marfa Myths, you'll notice that it's a festival like no other. Taking place April 12-15, the music and arts festival is well ahead of the curve while offering plenty of reasons to take it seriously in the process. Created by Brooklyn's Mexican Summer in collaboration with Ballroom Marfa, the Texas fest takes everything you knew about a music festival and reinvents those notions at the same time.

Opening on Thursday April 12, there's plenty to check out at the festival starting with the festival's official zine launch at 4 p.m. This gets followed by an art show featuring "Imaginary Concerts" by Peter Coffin at Marfa Studio of Arts at 6 p.m. Coffin's world renowned works have been displayed all over, and this book full of posters of concerts that never were, is pretty amazing to say the least.

This gets followed up with a performance from musician, sculptor, and man of mystery Terry Allen at the Marfa Visitors Center. Allen has been known to mix things up at his performances, though his latest release Lubbock (on Everything) is pretty amazing. The folk sounds of Canada's The Weather Station will get things started, and that should be worth catching as she doesn't make it to Texas often at all. This begins at 7:30 p.m. You can close out the first night at the same space with Hello I'm Dolly: the Best Little Drag Show in Texas starting at 10:30 p.m.

On Friday, the festival kicks off at 11 a.m. with an exhibition of the works of renowned artist Donald Judd. The pieces, Untitled U Channel and V Channel will be shown at the Ice Plant from the Chianti Foundation. Judd has had works in the MoMA, his art has been hailed by critics around the globe, and these larger scale pieces are something to see. While Judd passed away over twenty years ago, his work here is on par with works at the Guggenheim and the London Museum of Contemporary Art.



Jessica Pratt should delight all who attend Marfa Myths.
Photo by Colby Drescher

The folk sounds of LA's Jessica Pratt will take center stage at The Capri. Pratt's angelic voice falls all over her last release *On Your Own Love Again*, and should sound amazing in person. The psych infused folk of Illinois' Ryley Walker will open the show, with doors at 1 p.m.

Over at the Marfa Visitor Center, the eclectic sounds of New York's Kelsey Lu will be on full display, cello and all. Lu has been making intriguing and eclectic music for a good while now, she's collaborated with the likes of Blood Orange and Organized Noize, and her latest release *Church* is complex and beautifully engaging. Doors for this set are at 4 p.m.

At Ballroom Marfa, the opening reception for Hyperobjects will take place. From Rice University's Timothy Morton and Laura Copelin, the exhibition will confront our world's ecological crisis, and further dig into his book *Hyperobjects: Philosophy and Ecology After The End of The World*. The ambient sounds of Philadelphia's Laaraji with Arji Oceananda will perform, as well as a performance from Portland's interplanetary folk group, Visible Cloaks.

The Moroccan collective sounds of New York's Innov Gnawa will perform at the Friday after party at El Cosmico. Omar S will open with doors at 9 p.m.

Saturday you can walk through the Hyperobjects exhibit with Timothy Morton and Laura Copelin at Ballroom Marfa at 11 a.m. You can follow that up with a set from renowned pianist Suzanne Ciani at the Arena. Ciani has become well known for her neo-classical style and her groundbreaking work with electronic music. The five time Grammy winner has composed music for everything from films to video game commercials, and her album *The Velocity of Love* is a measure in where electronic compositions can go. Her performance is at noon and should be mesmerizing.

At 3 p.m. the percussive and all out energetic sounds of Brazil's Tom Ze will perform at Saint George Hall. Ze has influenced the globe with his Afro-Brazilian sounds, including the likes of Beck, Thurston Moore of Sonic Youth, and David Byrne to name just a few. He'll be performing with Brooklyn's Helado Negro with Ensemble, and his latest drop *Grande Liquidacao* is a masterful as his early works. Seeing as how Ze is now eighty-one

Tom Ze will bring everyone to their feet at Marfa Myths. Photo courtesy of Luka Bop
Kelsey Lu will bring her eclectic sounds to the festival. Photo courtesy of SacksCo
Thor & Friends make captivating use of xylophones and more. Photo by Thom Wasburn



years old, if you're a fan this could be your last chance to catch the iconic artist.

The art of Jesse Moretti will be on display at an opening reception at Ashley Rowe at 4 p.m.; or if that's not your thing, you could head to Lost Horse to catch a set from LA's Drugdealer. The group, consisting of Michael Collins makes music that's pretty infectious, where his latest drop *The End of Comedy* features the likes of acts like Weyes Blood and Ariel Pink. That show gets going around 5 p.m.; or if you'd rather, the Reverberation Radio DJ set will take place at Nadar Bar & Grill at 6 p.m.

Of course, over at The Capri, the iconic and influential post-punk sounds of WIRE will be on hand to headline a set. Since the mid-seventies, WIRE has made some of the most progressive music with releases like *Pink Flag*, *Chairs Missing*, and *154*. However, if that were it, then that'd be okay, but in 2003 they started back with *Send* and have kept a steady stream of releases coming until last year's sonic and masterful release *Silver/Lead*. Known for intriguing and mesmerizing performances, their set should blow minds and influence new art. The indie rock of New York's Amen Dunes will also perform while the lovely experimental folk of Indiana's Cir-



cuit des Yeux will get the show started around 6:30 p.m.

An after party at The Capri will occur with a performance from Jamaica's Equinoxx. The music collective blends jungle alongside drum and bass and everything in between to create some epic jams that should get feet moving for sure. Things get started around 11 p.m.

WE BELIEVE LOCAL JOURNALISM IS CRITICAL TO THE LIFE OF A CITY

Engaging with our readers is essential to the mission of the Houston Press. Make a financial contribution or sign up for a newsletter, and help us keep telling Houston's stories with no paywalls.

SUPPORT OUR JOURNALISM

