

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**David Petersen Gallery presents a solo exhibition of sculpture by South Minneapolis/
Powderhorn Park resident and visionary artist and musician Douglas R. Ewart**

DOUGLAS R. EWART

A Sounding Forest Site

OPENING RECEPTION – Thursday, September 11, 2025, 6-8pm

**David Petersen Gallery
4116 Cedar Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55407
IG: @davidpetersengallery**

**Contact: David Petersen
Phone: 612-221-9539
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David Petersen Gallery is honored to announce the upcoming solo exhibition by the visionary artist, composer, musician, instrument-maker, activist and educator, Douglas R. Ewart. In the midst of the fifth decade of his polymathic career, the ethos of Ewart's interdisciplinary work continues to emphasize our interdependence on this planet. A true agent of transformation, Ewart weaves his remarkably broad gifts through his diverse projects, performances, and multimedia events into a single sensibility of encouragement to celebrate and restore the wholeness of individuals in culturally active communities.

For his exhibition, Ewart will present a large collection of his vertically-oriented sculptures and instruments installed throughout the gallery. Totems, stomping sticks, dream chimes, lightning rods, and crepuscular instruments made of discarded objects at the twilight of their original existence, will create an environment replete with the kaleidoscopic visual elements of Ewart's creations, provide moments of engagement for visitors to interact with his instruments, and acknowledge the sacred, spiritual and mythical entity that is the forest. As throughout all cultures, the forest is a realm steeped in cultural and spiritual significance. In African cultures, in particular, the forest is often perceived as more than an ecosystem, but a living entity, home to myriad spirits and deities that govern the natural world, and are thus intertwined with the myths of the communities that surround them. Trees hold a sacred place in these mythologies, often seen as symbols of life, wisdom, and connection to ancestors. The baobab, for instance, is known as the "tree of life" for its ability to provide food, water and shelter, and is revered as a site of worship and ritual. Other trees are anthropomorphized as wise elders who can offer guidance and knowledge to those who seek it. Additionally, trees symbolize connections to ancestors, serving as a bridge between living and dead. With Ewart's exhibition, the objects - many made with bamboo, mahogany, and pine - will speak to these sacred places of enchantment, mysticism, nourishment, and refuge by creating a forest-like environment within the gallery. As a shared, communal space, the arboreal exhibition embodies the profound connections between trees, spirits, and the lives of those who revere them.

(Biography continued on next page)

DAVID PETERSEN GALLERY

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www.davidpetersengallery.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, cont'd

Biography

Born in Kingston, Jamaica in 1946, Douglas R. Ewart immigrated to Chicago, Illinois in 1963. A Professor Emeritus at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Ewart has been the recipient of many distinguished awards, including the 1997 Bush Artists Fellowship, 2022 McKnight Foundation Distinguished Artist Award, the Jamaica Musgrave Silver Medal for Outstanding Merit in the Arts, Education, and Culture 2019, and Chicago's Outstanding Artist Award. Additionally, he has received awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, Rockefeller Foundation, Jerome Foundation, Minnesota Composers Forum/McKnight Foundation, and the Naropa Institute. He has performed nationally at Mobius (Boston), The Contemporary Art Center (New Orleans), the Walker Art Center (Minneapolis), 1750 Arch Street (Berkeley), Painted Bride (Philadelphia), Creative Arts Collective (Detroit), Lincoln Park Zoo and the Field Museum of Natural History (Chicago), Merkin Hall, the Public Theatre, The Kitchen and Carnegie Hall (New York), as well as internationally in Brazil, Tokyo, Perth, Havana, Paris, Stockholm, London, Düsseldorf and Berlin. Currently, Ewart lives and works in the Powderhorn Park neighborhood in south Minneapolis.

David Petersen Gallery is a contemporary art gallery that was founded in 2012. Based in south Minneapolis, the gallery features exhibitions by internationally-recognized artists who create unique, semi-site specific projects that expand their respective practices. This includes exhibitions of paintings, drawings, and prints; sculptures and sculptural installations; video and performance; and combinations of all of the above.

For more information or imagery:

Contact: David Petersen

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Douglas R. Ewart
Sound Forest
September 11 – October 26, 2025

OPENING RECEPTION
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