April 10—16
8:00 pm—10:30 pm
Ah humanity!
Sound and video installation
by Ernst Karel, Véréna Paravel, and Lucien Castaing-Taylor
Science Center Plaza

April 15—17
HEAR WORD!
Naija Woman Talk True
Directed by Ifeoma Fafunwa
Harvard Dance Center

April 9, 1:00 pm
Bending Toward Justice: Improvisation, Freedom, and the Arts
Symposium moderated by Vijay Iyer
Harvard Art Museums
Improvisation plays a central role in all of our lives: we might describe it as the way we do almost everything — not just certain kinds of music, but also ordinary speech, games and sports, politics and warfare, and most social interactions. In this symposium, we consider the power of individual and collective improvisation in times of crisis, turmoil, or social change. Our panelists’ perspectives from the arts disciplines will illuminate these political questions, as we attune our ears to the music of difference — the polyrhythms, counterpoints, cadences, and dissonances of highly charged human interaction.

The symposium, sponsored by HUCA, includes opening remarks from poet, theorist, and University of California Riverside Professor Fred Moten. Panelists include Vijay Iyer, Franklin D. and Florence Rosenblatt Professor of the Arts (moderator); Danielle Goldman, Assistant Professor of Dance at The New School Lang; Daphne Brooks, Professor of African American Studies and Theater Studies at Yale; Wadada Leo Smith, a composer and trumpeter who will be performing in the Fromm Players Concerts as the Eileen Southern Distinguished Visitor in the Department of Music; and Matthew Leslie Santana, a Harvard graduate student in ethnomusicology.

This symposium is given in conjunction with the Fromm Players Concerts, titled Creative Music Convergences, on April 7th and April 8th in John Knowles Paine Concert Hall, beginning at 7:30 pm. The April 7th concert features Vijay Iyer/Wadada Leo Smith duo, Nicole Mitchell/Tomeka Reid/Mike Reed trio, Okkyung Lee, and the Steve Lehman Octet. The April 8th concert features Craig Taborn, Wadada Leo Smith/Ike Morí Ó duo, Courtney Bryan, and the Tysphon Sorey Double Trio. The concerts are sponsored by the Music Department and the Fromm Music Foundation at Harvard.

April 15—17
HEAR WORD!
Naija Woman Talk True
Harvard Dance Center

HEAR WORD! is a powerful piece of performance art that combines artistry, social commentary, and true-life stories of inequality and transformation, delivered by some of Nigeria’s most talented actresses. The stories are based on real issues affecting the lives of women across Nigeria and examine the factors that limit their potential for independence, leadership, and meaningful contribution. HEAR WORD! bravely examines the cultural and societal norms that oppress and limit African women as it invites women to break the culture of silence, unite, challenge the status quo, and create solutions.

HEAR WORD! is directed by Ifeoma Pafunwo and stars Taiwo Aja-Lycett, Joke Silva, Bimbo Akintola, Omonoye, Elvira Ibru, Ufuoma McDermott, Zara Udoji-Ejob, Odenike, Rita Edward, and Debbie Ohiri. It features some adapted monologues made available by the Kudirat Initiative for Democracy (KIND).

The production is presented by the Harvard Center for African Studies in association with the American Repertory Theater, the Division of Social Science, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the Harvard Dance Center, the Hutchins Center for African & African American Research, Harvard Law School, the Mahindra Humanities Center, the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, the Theater, Dance & Media Concentration at Harvard University, and the Harvard University Committee on the Arts. Already famous in Lagos, the two-week Cambridge engagement of this acclaimed play includes four performances, class visits, pop-ups and panel discussions with the cast, director, and experts from Harvard University.

Performances of HEAR WORD! will take place on Fri, Apr 15th at 7:30 pm; Sat, Apr 16th at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm; and Sun, Apr 17th at 2:00 pm.