

BOMB – Artists in Conversation

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Music : Interview

Paola Prestini
by Helga Davis



Composer, visionary, and mentor Paola Prestini not only fills all of the aforementioned roles but is also founder of her own production company, VisionIntoArt (VIA), which provides opportunities to young composers as well as established performers in the new music world. Prestini also serves as the creative director of the soon-to-open Original Music Workshop (OMW) in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

On the heels of launching her new record label, VIA Records, I sat down with my colleague and friend and asked her some of the questions that have been on my mind since 2007, when I first became immersed in her work.

— Helga Davis

Helga Davis Recently you said something to me that made me giggle: "Once I get to sit down, I write very fast." I know everyone who writes music has some particular inspiration, but when I listen to what you write, I can't imagine that it's fast.

Paola Prestini There's a gestation period and that's a slow process of getting to know whatever material I'm about to dive into—whether it's extra-musical or musical. The flow that occurs when I am finally sitting at the piano and then putting the piece into the computer for refining is a result of years and years of work, of understanding my own language, and yet being open to surprises, which is what music and life are all about. That flow happens quickly and then, depending on the length of the piece or on what I'm trying to accomplish, there is a feeling of urgency that drives the process.