

# Joan La Barbara: The Wanderlusting of Joseph C.

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**Joan La Barbara**, composer and voice

**Lauren Flanigan**, soprano

**Mario Diaz-Moresco**, baritone

**Miguel Frasconi**, flute

**Bryan Hayslett**, cello

**Monique Truong**, lyricist

Composer and performer Joan La Barbara has been mining the life and work of Joseph Cornell for many years. In this free-with-Museum-admission performance she presents selections from her epic song cycle "The Wanderlusting of Joseph C." along with "Windows" and "Habilité par ses rêves et les phantasms".

Inspired by the obsessions, visions, and dreams of the American visual artist Joseph Cornell, "The Wanderlusting of Joseph C." is a new song cycle composed by Joan La Barbara with lyrics by Monique Truong. "Wanderlust," a word coined by Cornell and appearing often in his journals, captures the two longings, the two impossibilities—travel and eros—of this man's outwardly quiet, staid life. In his dreams and his art though, Joseph C. transcends and revels in both wander and lust. The dreamscape prelude to the song cycle is "Windows," a 'sonic atmosphere' La Barbara created from 13 years of instrumental, vocal, and natural sound recordings, inspired by Cornell's journal entries and ethereal boxes and whispers from Virginia Woolf. "Habilité par ses rêves et les phantasms" (2009) for voice and handheld percussion is the first work she composed inspired by Cornell and uses fragments from Joseph Cornell's journals that describe elements of dreams, the catalysts for much of his work, to generate her sonic reflections.

**Free with Museum admission, starting in Gallery 915 and traveling to Gallery 918.**

Presented in conjunction with the exhibition *Birds of a Feather: Joseph Cornell's Homage to Juan Gris*, on view at The Met Fifth Avenue January 23–April 15, 2018.

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