

THE ARTISTS' ARTISTS

## THE BEST OF 2015

TO TAKE STOCK OF THE PAST YEAR, *ARTFORUM* ASKED AN INTERNATIONAL GROUP OF ARTISTS TO SELECT A SINGLE IMAGE, EXHIBITION, OR EVENT THAT MOST MEMORABLY CAPTURED THEIR EYE IN 2015.

**YUJI AGEMATSU**



*Ayé Aton, Untitled, 1964, acrylic on paper, 27 1/2 × 22".*  
From "The Freedom Principle: Experiments in Art and Music, 1965 to Now."

## DEANA LAWSON

“The Freedom Principle: Experiments in Art and Music, 1965 to Now” (Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago) This truly dynamic exhibition traced the 1960s African American avant-garde to present-day cultural practices. I felt immediately charged by unexpected conversations between the archival materials of Chicago art and jazz organizations AfriCOBRA and the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians and contemporary artworks such as Jamal Cyrus’s *Cultr-Ops*, 2008, a graphite-on-paper reference to FBI files created under the bureau’s infamous cointelpro surveillance program. I took pleasure in the space-travel paintings by Ayé Aton, a former percussionist and mentee of Sun Ra’s, and delighted in the photo documentation of his cosmic murals. *Rio Negro II*, 2007/2015—a “robotic-acoustic” sound installation by Douglas R. Ewart, George Lewis, and Douglas Repetto consisting of rain sticks, chimes, and bamboo, among other components—totally activated my senses.