

July 22, 2021



John Giorno's 'Dial-A-Poem' (1970) © John Giorno Collection

UK residents will have the chance to Dial-A-Poem by the performance artist John Giorno for the first time. The recordings of hundreds of artists reading their own poetry were made and released between 1968 and 2019, when Giorno died. Participants including Vito Acconci, Allen Ginsberg and Patti Smith. The project, which randomly selects poems for callers, was relaunched in New York last month and will be made free to listen from a UK phone number from October 12.

“This work chronicles when John lived in downtown New York and when the art scene was at the intersection of performance, dance, poetry and art,” says Elizabeth Dee, a curator, art fair organiser and director of the John Giorno Foundation. She describes the Dial-A-Poem project as “the most important work he ever created” and hopes to run it “around the world”. The UK launch coincides with the artist’s first posthumous solo show in London, which runs at Almine Rech gallery from October 12 to November 13.