

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The spatial imaginary of *The Florida Room* had the unanticipated effect of becoming real. This has all to do with the people who shared their stories with me and with the many more who have long offered lively hospitality. This book holds well over two decades of concert going, written fragments, interviews with artists, public lectures, parts of short essays or longer articles, many students and seminars, research in archives that have moved or changed personnel. All of those activities—in addition to those that involved actually being from Miami—were helped along by a lot of kindness and humor and support. Every step was an extended search for a form. The Florida room was the provisional structure that wanted to hold everything. The visits to it, over all this time, demanded to be written out with considerable urgency during the quarantine of 2020. To borrow from Wilson Harris, “The dance of place had begun” in that mandatory period of social isolation. It lent new immediacy to the project, and writing it in the close company of others—regardless of distance—kept me alive. A reminder to self and everyone: talking to people not only nuances the scholarship but also has medicinal qualities.

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