

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 21
NOON-5PM · FREE

SURREY ART GALLERY PRESENTS
SOUND THINKING 2010

KEYNOTE SPEAKER **JONATHAN STERNE**

PANELISTS

ADAM FRANK

TIM HECKER

HISHAM MAYET

ELLEN MOFFAT

GABRIEL SALOMAN

JENNIFER SCHINE

& A PERFORMANCE BY **ANDY DIXON**

CONVENED BY **BRADY CRANFIELD**

www.surrey.ca/arts | www.listenagain.ca

Listen Again

**THE CHANGING WORLD OF EVERYDAY SOUND,
AUDIO, AND NOISE & THE FUTURE OF SOUND STUDIES**

Sound Thinking 2010 is part of *Open Sound*, the Surrey Art Gallery's ongoing series of sound art exhibitions

With an ear to the past, present, and future, Listen Again: The Changing World of Everyday Sound, Audio, and Noise, and the Future of Sound Studies is a one-day symposium devoted to the interdisciplinary exploration of sound and the present condition of sound studies itself, offering a unique examination of art, music, culture, society, politics, and the changing character of everyday life.



SOUND THINKING 2010

**LISTEN AGAIN:
THE CHANGING WORLD OF EVERYDAY SOUND, AUDIO,
AND NOISE & THE FUTURE OF SOUND STUDIES**

Listen Again: The Changing World of Everyday Sound, Audio, and Noise, and the Future of Sound Studies is a one-day symposium with an eclectic set of participants. The panelists and performers work across a range of methods and a number of practices devoted to the study and exploration of sound. Their shared pursuits reflect the condition of sound studies in its present state, a diverse and interdisciplinary field that offers a valuable critical discourse to current ideas of culture and social, political, and economic organization. The symposium offers a unique perspective on what opportunities sound studies can provide today, and concentrates on three pertinent and engaging sectors: the changing area of sound as a distinct subject for analysis, especially including the growth of sound-based art practices and new forms of popular experimental music as related developments; a reexamination of the influential work and ideas of the World Soundscape Project of the late 1960s and early 1970s at Simon Fraser University, in particular the notions of the Soundscape, the Soundwalk, and Acoustic Ecology; and, finally, a focus on the context of everyday life, emphasizing the prosaic sounds of daily urban life, sounds often held in negative contrast to those of nature. With these themes in mind, which give an ear to the past, present, and future, Listen Again: The Changing World of Everyday Sound, Audio, and Noise, and the Future of Sound Studies performs a valuable addition to the evolving field of sound studies.

SOUND THINKING 2010 IS PART OF *OPEN SOUND*, THE SURREY ART GALLERY'S ONGOING SERIES OF SOUND ART EXHIBITIONS

SCHEDULE

12:00 – 12:30 Light Lunch for participants and public

12:30 – 12:40 Introductions Brady Cranfield and Jordan Strom

12:40 – 1:50 Panel One Hisham Mayet, Gabriel Saloman, and Jennifer Schine

10 Minute break

2:00 – 2:30 Performance Secret Mommy (Andy Dixon)

10 Minute break

2:40 – 3:35 Keynote Jonathan Sterne

10 Minute break

3:45 – 4:55 Panel Two Adam Frank, Tim Hecker, and Ellen Moffat

4:55 – 5:00 Concluding remarks

The keynote presentation and the two panels will also provide time for questions and comments from the audience.

SATELLITE EVENTS

For more information, visit listenagain.ca

The Western Front, Friday November 19 at 9:00 PM

Performances by **Tim Hecker** and **Loscil**

VIVO, Saturday November 21 at 8:00 PM

Two videos by **Hisham Mayet**

Plus musical performance by the **Volunteer Ecstatic Orchestra**

The Canadian premiere showing of Hisham Mayet's **Land of the Songhai** (30 minutes), 2010

A bizarre and fascinating glimpse into the arid and culturally vibrant bend in the Niger river.

and **Musical Brotherhoods From The Trans-Saharan Highway** (60 minutes), 2005

An assortment of spectacular musical dramas presented live and unfiltered on the home turf of the world's most dynamic string and drum specialists.

PANELISTS

ANDY DIXON is a prolific Vancouver based musician, usually busy with a number of different bands and projects at once, and a graphic designer; he also owns and operates the independent record label, Ache Records. Dixon's electronic music project, Secret Mommy, focuses on sounds taken from recordings he makes of things such as recreational activities, like basketball and yoga, and his own dental surgery. For the symposium, Dixon, as Secret Mommy, will present new music exploring the sounds of shopping malls as a kind of applied sound-based research project.

ADAM FRANK is an Associate Professor of English at UBC. He works in the areas of nineteenth- and twentieth-century American literature, science and technology studies, and theories and histories of affect and feeling. His research interests have lead him to examine sound in a variety of different contexts and applications — conceptual, literary, poetic, theatrical, psychological, and more — and across media. Alien8 Recordings released Frank's audio-only musical melodrama, *Overpass! A Melodrama*, produced in collaboration with composer Sam Shalabi, in 2007. *Some Mad Scientists*, another musical melodrama collaboration with Shalabi, is forthcoming.

TIM HECKER is a Montreal based, internationally recognized, and critically acclaimed experimental electronic composer and musician. The New York Times has described his work as “foreboding, abstract pieces in which static and sub-bass rumbles open up around slow moving notes and chords, like fissures in the earth waiting to swallow them whole”. He has toured extensively, nationally and internationally, both alone and at festivals, and the labels Kranky, Alien8, Mille Plateaux, Room40, Force Inc, Staalplaat, and Fat Cat have released his many recordings. Hecker is currently completing a PhD in the Department of Art History & Communication Studies at McGill.

HISHAM MAYET is co-founder and co-operator, with Alan Bishop, of the Seattle based CD and DVD label Sublime Frequencies, which is dedicated to “acquiring and exposing obscure sights and sounds from modern and traditional urban and rural frontiers”. An avid traveler and archivist, Mayet is also a documentary filmmaker working with digital video to produce a kind of “folk cinema” which seeks to “manifest into the realm of poetic and ecstatic truth”. His films include *Jemaa El Fna: Morocco's Rendezvous of the Dead*, *Folk Music of the Sahara: Among the Tuareg of Libya*, *NIGER: Magic and Ecstasy in the Sahel*, and *Morocco: Musical Brotherhoods from the Trans-Saharan Highway*.

PANELISTS (CONTINUED)

ELLEN MOFFAT is a Saskatoon based artist with a committed interest in sound. Her diverse practice includes installation, new media, public art, performance, and collaboration. She has presented work in solo and group exhibitions across Canada and internationally. Projects include *urbansubsonic* (2009), which used audio recordings taken beneath a glass sidewalk in downtown Saskatoon to create a chance-based soundscape; *Claybank Voices: How Men Made White Mud into Cape Canaveral* (2006), a 24-channel sound installation at an industrial site in Claybank, Saskatchewan, which explored notions of labour and cultural transformation; and *Blow* (2006), a multimedia installation which used cut-up fragments of speech to create a spatialized sound poem.

GABRIEL SALOMAN is a prolific Vancouver based musician, artist, curator, writer, and activist, with an interest in noise, music and sound-based art as “both liberating practice and praxis”. He is currently involved in a number of different projects and bands, including the improvised “divinational” music group Diadem with Aja Rose and the artist collective Red 76, and he performs as a solo artist as Sade Sade and Instrumentation. Saloman was also one half of the critically acclaimed, Portland based experimental, noise-based improvising duo Yellow Swans, with Pete Swanson.

JENNIFER SCHINE is a Masters student in the School of Communication at SFU. Her research investigates concepts of identity, memory, and movement within the field of acoustic communication and soundscape studies. She is interested in the relationships between audio heritage, listening practices, and other worldviews. She was the recipient of the inaugural R. Murray Schafer Soundscape Award (2010) for her work exploring the practice of the soundwalk as a potential tool for memory retrieval. Her current work involves a cross-cultural examination of soundscapes and indigenous identity.

JONATHAN STERNE is Associate Professor of Art History and Communication Studies at McGill. Addressing sound, music, media, and more, Sterne’s erudite work broadly explores the “form and role of communication technologies in large-scale societies” and aims at the development of “an adequate history and theory of sound in modernity”. Along with numerous scholarly articles, he is the author of the books *The Audible Past: Cultural Origins of Sound Reproduction* (2003) and the forthcoming *MP3: The Meaning of a Format* (2012), and the editor of *The Sound Studies Reader* (2012), also forthcoming. He is currently a fellow in residence at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University.

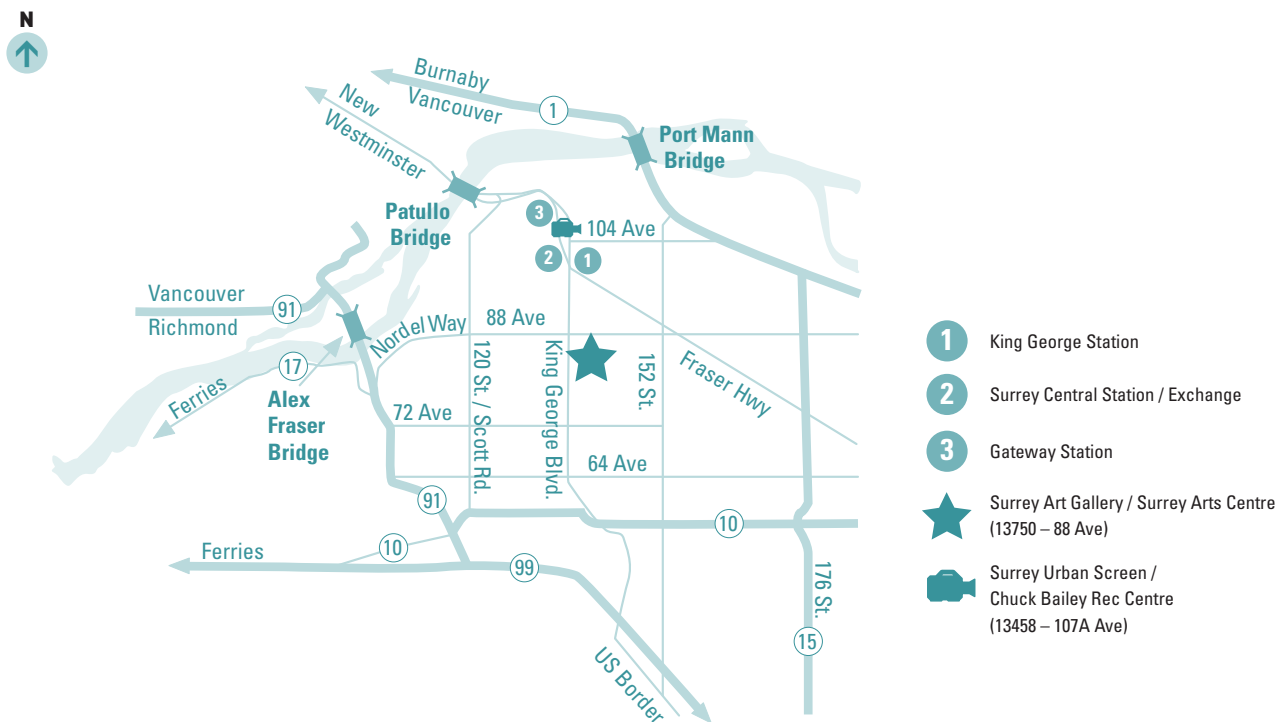
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