surrey
art gallery

Surrey Art Gallery presents

Turn up the
Sound Systems!

GENERATIVE SOUND ART TODAY

Saturday, Nov 24
Noon–3:30pm | FREE

HOST
Philippe Pasquier

PERFORMERS
Arne Eigenfeldt
Norah Lorway

PRESENTERS
Kiran Bhumber & Nancy Lee
Arne Eigenfeldt
Amber Frid-Jimenez
Norah Lorway
George Rahi

Surrey Art Gallery / 13750 88 Ave in Bear Creek Park
surrey.ca/soundthinking

CITY OF SURREY   BRITISH COLUMBIA   BRITISH COLUMBIA ARTS COUNCIL   Canada Council   Conseil des arts
                                    An agency of the Province of British Columbia   for the Arts   du Canada

Turn Up the Sound Systems!

Music is organized sounds. Be it for harmony, melody, rhythm or other abstract or perceptual viewpoints you might take on music, it is made of temporal patterns, repetitions and variations. From the regimented structures of hip-hop or counterpoints to the organic structures of electroacoustic music and experimental improvisations, the variety of sonic organizations in astonishing.

With the advent of digital information processing, composers and artists have started to look at these structures more formally. With computers, these musical structures do not have to be manually written, but can instead be programmed. Through the use of algorithms (which are no more than instructions lists for computers), artists are exploring ways to generate music and sound forms. In doing so, the artist delegates a little bit of their authority, and some autonomy, to the machine.

The 2018 edition of Sound Thinking at the Surrey Art Gallery gathers six artists whose practices, each in their own way, take advantage of the generative potential of machines in their creative process. This symposium is an afternoon of presentations, discussions, and short live performances around the theme of generative music systems. We will discuss what is gained and lost in using algorithms for artmaking. Be it an analog process or a computer algorithm, be it a simple use of chance and randomness or the use of sophisticated AI algorithms, what is at stake for art and culture in generative practices?

Amber Frid-Jiminez will let us understand how data architectures and generativity can be exploited in video production. George Rahi will discuss his generative sound installations that marry the precision of digital to the warmth of analog organs. Kiran Bhumber and Nancy Lee will discuss how their new VR piece integrates generation. Arne Eigenfeldt with introduce and perform with groups of artificial musical agents, the Musebots. These smart musical pieces of software are generating music in real time. Finally, Norah Lorway will introduce us to the idea of live coding: how to directly use computer coding as an instrument with which to play music, live. Writing music, by writing code!

Join us to listen, question, and learn, as this group of artists share their work with us.

Philippe Pasquier

About Sound Thinking

Founded in 2008, Surrey Art Gallery's Sound Thinking symposium is an annual one-day event which brings together practitioners and professionals in the field of sound art. The symposium features leading sound artists, scholars and researchers in the field of sound studies, along with visual artists who use sound as key components of their practice and musicians who experiment with the limits of music and sound. Past symposia have addressed subjects such as radiophonic space, the relationship between voice and technology, and background sound.

Sound Thinking is part of Surrey Art Gallery's Open Sound program, an exhibition program developed in 2008 to support the production and presentation of audio art forms as part of contemporary art practice.

Open Sound is made possible with the ongoing support of the City of Surrey, the Canada Council of the Arts and the BC Arts Council.

Schedule

Saturday November 24, 12pm to 3:30pm

Surrey Art Gallery, 13750 88th Avenue, Surrey

12:00   **Refreshments**

12:15   **Introduction & Welcome:** Rhys Edwards and Philippe Pasquier

12:35   **Presentations**

Arne Eigenfeldt
Amber Frid- Jimenez
Kiran Bhumber & Nancy Lee
George Rahi
Norah Lorway

1:50   **Break**

2:15   **Panel conversation**

2:50   **Performances** with George Rahi & Norah Lorway

3:10   **Question & answer** period with the audience

3:30   **Concluding remarks and acknowledgments**

Biographies

Kiran Bhumber is a media artist, composer, musician, and educator based in Vancouver. Kiran constructs interactive installations and performance systems that allow performers and audiences to engage with themes relating to cultural memory, embodiment, and nostalgia. She has performed and presented her works throughout North America, Asia, Europe, and Australia including conferences and festivals such as MUTEK, The International Symposium on Electronic (ISEA), The Toronto International Electroacoustic Symposium, Vancouver International Jazz Festival, International Conference on Live Coding, and New Interfaces for Musical Expression (NIME).

Arne Eigenfeldt is a composer of live electroacoustic music, and a researcher into intelligent generative music systems. His music has been performed around the world, and his collaborations range from Persian Tar masters to free improvisers to contemporary dance companies to musical robots. He has presented his research at major conferences and festivals, and published over 50 peer-reviewed papers on his research and collaborations. He is a professor of music and technology at Simon Fraser University.

Amber Frid-Jimenez is an artist whose work explores the role of design and technology in contemporary society. Her work investigates the aesthetics and cultural mechanics of the network through experimental platforms and visual installations. She is a Canada Research Chair in art and design technology, and an associate professor at Emily Carr University of Art + Design. Frid-Jimenez has presented her work internationally at institutions including the Smithsonian Institution, Casco Office for Art Design and Theory (NL), Maison Europeenne de la Photographie (Paris, FR), FACT (UK), A Foundation (Liverpool, UK), Vancouver Art Gallery, Contemporary Art Gallery (Vancouver), Western Front (Vancouver), Banff New Media Institute (Alberta, CA), Media Lab Prado (Madrid, SP), among others.

Nancy Lee is a curator of interactions. The notion of staging is a constant in her practice from her early days as a filmmaker to her current work in VR, new media performance, and installation. She has performed and presented her work at the Cannes Film Festival, MUTEK (Japan), SXSW, Vancouver International Jazz Festival, New Forms Festival, and The International Conference on Live Coding (Hamilton), among others. Nancy is co-founder of Chapel Sound Art Foundation and organizer for the inaugural Current: Feminist Electronic Art Symposium.

Norah Lorway is an academic researcher, lecturer, programmer, and data artist. She works mainly with Human Computer Interaction, Creative Computing, VR/MR game experiences, and immersive sound. She live codes techno (and other music) around the world in venues and festivals such as Norberg Festival (Sweden), Corsica Studios (London UK), Incubate Festival (NL). She is currently constructing 3D printed sensor-based wearables for use with sound performance. Lorway has run the electronic music label xylem records since 2012, and makes music for film such as *Anthropocene: The Human Epoch* which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2018.

George Rahi is a composer, performer, and installation artist exploring new hybrids between the acoustic, electronic, mechanical, and sculptural realms. Currently he is an MFA candidate at Simon Fraser's School for the Contemporary Arts where he works across a diverse array of interests including electro-acoustics, organology, robotics, and the soundscape. He has produced performances, installations, and works for radio and theatre, notably for the Canadian Music Centre, Western Front, Vancouver New Music, SPEKTRUM (Berlin), VIVO Media Arts Centre and Vancouver Co-op Radio's Media Arts Program. He is also the instrument builder and founding member of the percussion ensemble Gamelan Bike Bike.

Conveners

Philippe Pasquier researches creative processes and generative systems. He is a scientist with a specialization in artificial intelligence, a multidisciplinary artist, an educator, and a community builder. His contributions range from theoretical research in multi-agent systems, computational creativity, creative AI and machine learning, to applied artistic research and practice in digital art, computer music, and generative art. He has co-authored over 130 peer-reviewed articles. His artistic work has been shown at Ars Electronica, Centre Pompidou, ISEA, Mutek festival, and ZKM. Philippe is an associate professor in the School for Interactive Arts and Technology, where he directs the Metacreation Lab for Creative AI, and is an adjunct professor in Cognitive Science at Simon Fraser University.

Jordan Strom

As Curator of Exhibitions and Collections at the Surrey Art Gallery, Jordan Strom has curated solo exhibitions by Cao Fei, Sarindar Dhaliwal, Brendan Fernandes, Ryoji Ikeda, among others. Recent group exhibitions have addressed immigration and contemporary art (*Ruptures in Arrival: Art in the Wake of the Komagata Maru*, 2014), contemporary artist self-portraiture (*Scenes of Selves, Occasions for Ruses*, 2012), and the proto-cinematic (*Vision Machine*, 2012).

Jordan has worked on previous curatorial exhibitions and projects for the Vancouver Art Gallery, Kamloops Art Gallery, Presentation House Gallery, Republic Gallery and Dadabase. From 2004 to 2008, Jordan worked as editor at *Fillip*, a journal of contemporary art.

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