

**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20 · NOON-5PM · FREE**

**SURREY ART GALLERY PRESENTS  
SOUND THINKING 2011**

# Active Voice

**VOCALITY AS MEDIUM,  
OBJECT & MATERIAL**

A SYMPOSIUM OF TALKS AND  
PERFORMANCES ON VOICE AND  
CONTEMPORARY ART

KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
**STEVEN CONNOR**

PRESENTERS  
**ROSS BIRDWISE  
CLINT BURNHAM  
KARILYNN MING HO  
LIEF HALL  
DIPNA HORRA  
JANICE KERBEL  
HARKEERAT MANGAT  
TOMASZ MICHALAK  
JUDY RADUL**

CONVENED BY  
**LISA COULTHARD  
& JORDAN STROM**



Sound Thinking 2011  
is part of *Open Sound*,  
the Surrey Art Gallery's  
ongoing series of  
sound art exhibitions

SOUND THINKING 2011

**ACTIVE VOICE:**

**VOCALITY AS MEDIUM, OBJECT & MATERIAL**

“The voice is in the air”: so began Michel Chion in his 1982 study *The Voice in Cinema*. Stressing the voice as airborne and immaterial, Chion’s comment recognizes the presence of the voice as a material object, as an object of power, consequence, adoration, fetishization and disavowal. Recent scholarship has emphasized the importance of this material voice — what some scholars have termed an object voice — that is both more than and less than meaning. Not consumed or eradicated in the conveyance of meaning, the object voice disturbs, disorients and pushes the boundaries of thought itself. From its pre-linguistic manifestations (breath, whimper, scream) to its mechanical repetition, signature grain or overwhelming presence over and beyond sense, the object voice calls on us to pursue it further, to listen attentively and to heed its reverberations and implications. By raising the voice to an object for inquiry and investigation, this symposium seeks to examine the voice as an object, an object of excess and resonance with material and philosophical weight both with and beyond linguistic sense or the structures of meaningful speech. Symposium participants include Ross Birdwise, Steven Connor, Clint Burnham, Lief Hall, Dipna Horra, Janice Kerbel, Harkeerat Mangat, Karilynn Ming Ho, Tomasz Michalak, Judy Radul.

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## PANELISTS

**ROSS BIRDWISE** is a Vancouver-based musician and visual artist. His interests include vocal music and extended vocal techniques, electronic music and vocal processing, improvisation in solo and group performances, noise music, dance music, using music to explore notions of time and space, and making laptop performances more physical. He also has a visual art practice that includes video art.

**CLINT BURNHAM** is a Vancouver writer and critic. He teaches in the English Department at Simon Fraser University and is the author of many books, including the novel *Smoke Show*, poetry collections such as *The Benjamin Sonnets* and literary criticism, most recently *The Only Poetry that Matters: Reading the Kootenay School of Writing*. For close to 15 years Burnham has been writing on contemporary art, often with a careful attention paid to the relationship between visual art and music culture.

**STEVEN CONNOR** is Professor of Modern Literature and Theory at Birkbeck College London, where he has taught since 1979. He is Academic Director of the London Consortium Graduate Programme in Humanities and Cultural Studies. Connor has been writing about sound since the late 1990s. Recent essays have focused particularly on voice. *Photophonics* (2011), *Tiivillitium: The Tittle-Tattle of the Teeth, Voice Technology and the Victorian Ear* (1997), and *Chiasmus: Rough History of the Gutterraal* (2010). Connor has also written on sound art, including the work of Susan Phillipz.

**LISA COULTHARD** is Associate Professor in the Department of Theatre, Film and Creative Writing, University of British Columbia. Coulthard holds a Ph.D. from the University of Toronto. Though she has written widely on film, her research has recently focused extensively on sound in film; she regularly writes on the subject, including a paper on the use of sound in Michael Haneke's films and a book titled *The Super Sounds of Quentin Tarantino* that is soon to be published.

**LIEF HALL** is a musician, performance and installation artist based in Vancouver, Canada. Hall graduated from The Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design in 2005 and has since performed and exhibited at locations such as AKA Gallery, The Western Front, VIVO and The Chan Centre as well as completing a number of North American tours with her various musical projects.

**DIPNA HORRA's** practice is based in mixed media explorations and interdisciplinary collaborations. Since 2003, this Ottawa-based artist has been constructing architectural and object-based installations that involve sound, film, and performance. Horra has made several voice-centred works that explore notions of hybridity, identity, and a transcultural synthesis.

**PANELISTS (CONTINUED)**

**JANICE KERBEL** was born in Canada and lives in London, UK. She works with a range of materials, including drawing, text, audio and print to explore the indefinite space between reality and fiction, abstraction and representation. Solo exhibitions include: Chisenhale, London 2011; Art Now, Tate Britain, 2010; and Moderna Museet, Stockholm, 2006.

**HARKEERAT MANGAT** is a multidisciplinary artist whose work investigates and challenges conventional Western methods of composition in the production of time based and performative work. He is a Dhrupad vocalist belonging to the Dagarvani Gharana and currently studies under the tutelage of Pt. Uday Bhawalkar and David Tsabar. Mangat is based in Vancouver, BC where he is completing the final year of his BFA at Emily Carr University with a concentration in sound, video, installation and performance.

**TOMASZ MICHALAK** is a PhD Candidate in the English Department at UBC, currently finishing his doctoral thesis *The Megaphone of Destiny: The Production of the Popular Voice in 20th Century Literature and Culture from Gertrude Stein to Frank Zappa*. His research examines the relationship between text and sound in selected representative works of the late modernist and post-modernist avant-garde, paying special attention to the problem of voice as the material and auditory presence in text.

**KARILYNN MING HO** is a visual artist based in Vancouver, British Columbia. Her practice involves the research and exploration of various formal and conceptual frames existent in performativity. Her work exists through live actions, video, installation, and photography. She has exhibited her video and performance-based works extensively throughout Canada.

**JUDY RADUL** is a Vancouver-based interdisciplinary artist, and Associate Professor for the School for the Contemporary Arts Simon Fraser University, whose recent works investigate the relationship between performance and documentation. Radul's large scale-media installation *World Rehearsal Court* was first exhibited as a solo exhibition at the Morris and Helen Belkin Gallery at UBC in 2009 and travelled to the Generali Foundation, Vienna, and Media City Seoul, Korea. Her creative writing and essays have been in a variety of publications since 1991.

**JORDAN STROM** has been Curator of Exhibitions and Collections at the Surrey Art Gallery since 2009. Recent group exhibitions include *Sitely Premises*, about the integration of domestic space and landscape in recent British Columbia art and *Game Show*, a selection of artworks that address the strategies, cultures and politics of play, games and recreation. Strom is the Founding Editor of *Fillip*, a magazine of contemporary art criticism based in Vancouver.

## SCHEDULE

**12:00 Coffee and refreshments served**

**12:10 to 12:30 Introductions** Lisa Coulthard and Jordan Strom

**12:30 to 12:45 Performance** Lief Hall

**1:50 to 1:35 Keynote Talk** Steven Connor

10 Minute break

**1:45 to 2:05 Audio Presentation** Janice Kerbel

**2:10 to 3:10 Panel Discussion One** Judy Radul, Clint Burnham, Dipna Horra,  
Lisa Coulthard (moderator)

10 Minute break

**3:20 to 3:30 Video Screening** Karilynn Ming Ho

**3:30 to 4:30 Panel Discussion Two** Tomasz Michalak, Ross Birdwise, Harkeerat Mangat,  
Jordan Strom (moderator)

**4:30 to 5:00 Conversation and Concluding Remarks**

**ABOUT SOUND THINKING** Founded in 2008, the 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 as diverse as radiophonic space, sound art installation, new approaches ethnographic sound and acoustic ecology.

Sound Thinking 2011 is presented concurrently with three exhibitions that feature artworks that use and/or address voice: *Nests Built by Birds* featuring *Dipna Horra: Dhunia — Part One*, *Brendan Fernandes: Discontinent*, and *Finding Correspondences* which presents artworks by Digital Natives, Soheila K. Esfahani, Mark Neufeld, Emilio Rojas, Tony Romano, and Ming Wong.

*Sound Thinking* is part of Surrey Art Gallery's Open Sound program. Open Sound is an exhibition program developed in 2008 to support the production and presentation of audio art forms as part of contemporary art practice. Open Sound seeks to feature the leading edge of audio art, and has included site specific installation, radio experiments, ecological practices, and other investigations into the limits of sound today.

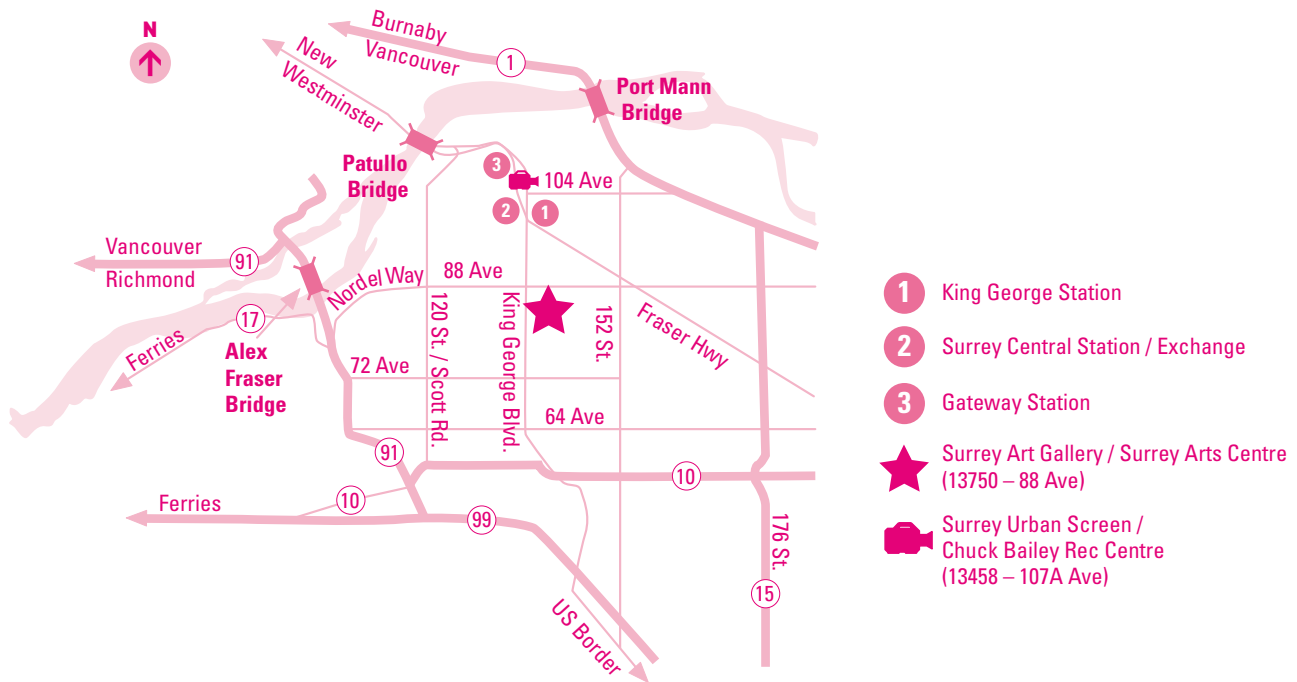
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