

Ensemble SITYPHE:
Clang Clagan
Nests Built by Birds:
Open Sound 2011
Surrey Art Gallery



/ Curated by
Jordan Strom

/ February 5 – June 5, 2011

Clang Clagan

voice and viola with computer assistance

/ About the artwork

Clang Clagan is a sound installation created by Andrea Young and André Cormier. This project was conceived as a way of marking time by emulating the time signaling structure of a common clock tower, by tolling each hour, and expressing the hour with the number of bell tolls. In lieu of tolling a bell signaling the hour, *Clang Clagan* plays a one-minute sound composition of voice and viola.

Analogous to the bell tower, at one o'clock, we hear a one-minute segment; at two, we hear two one-minute segments; and so on until twelve, when we hear twelve one minute segments. In addition to the musical hour indication of our clock, expressing the hour with the number of tolls, the segments are constructed with a progressive layering technique. This means that the material from the previous hour's musical segment serves as base material for the segment of the following hour, with the addition of new material.

The sonic material is essentially made of three elements that are developed over twelve layered segments. The first element is the emerging chord that swells in crescendo for 30 seconds and decrescendos for 30 seconds. The second layer is a vocal line that remains on one note and is alternating on the second with a viola pizzicato line. The vocal line gradually emerges with the phrase "Truth again I tell you is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God." The third layer is a viola pizzicato which emerges as the notes of a swelling chord in an appoggiated manner.

Ensemble STSYPHÉ: Clang Clagan



Ensemble SISYPHE: Clang Clagan

/ About the artists

/ Andrea Young

Andrea Young is a composer of acoustic and electro-acoustic music, as well as a vocal performer of contemporary concert music. Her undergraduate degree is in both Vocal Performance and Composition is from the University of Victoria. In 2007, she completed a Masters Degree of Music in Sonology from The Royal Conservatory, The Hague, Netherlands. Her own compositions mixed with the works of fellow composers have been performed in Victoria and Vancouver, Europe and the United States. She has worked as a composer with Quatuor Bozzini, in Montréal, presented two new works with the Tomorrow Collective in Vancouver and performed regularly with Ensemble Sisyphe and as a composer and vocal soloist.

/ André Cormier

André Cormier's work has been presented in Canada, the US, Europe and New Zealand. He has written for solo, small and large chamber ensembles, as well as music for opera, dance and collaborative work with visual artists. His works have been commissioned from a variety of artists in Canada, the US and Europe. In 2004 he founded Ensemble Ordinaire and has since served as artistic director. Cormier is an Acadian, originally from Moncton NB, and has lived on the west coast since the early nineties. In 2008 he launched Éditions musique SISYPHE a music publishing house focusing on experimental music.



Nests Built by Birds: Open Sound 2011

In English grammar, the phrase “nests built by birds” is commonly used as an example of “passive voice” in the relation between the subject and the object expressed. Through its repetition of letters, and inference of birdsong, “nests built by birds” is a phrase that evokes notions of sound and singing or speech. The fourth annual Open Sound program will present three works of sound art related to voice and translation. In all three projects, sound art installation about voice becomes as delicate and powerful as the nests built by birds. Exhibition runs at intervals through 2011.

/ Ensemble SISYPHE: *Clang Clagan*

The first project *Clang Clagan* (2010) by the Vancouver collective Ensemble SISYPHE (Andrea Young and André Cormier) is a computer-assisted voice and viola installation about marking time. Presented February 5 to June 5.

/ Ellen Moffat: *vBox*

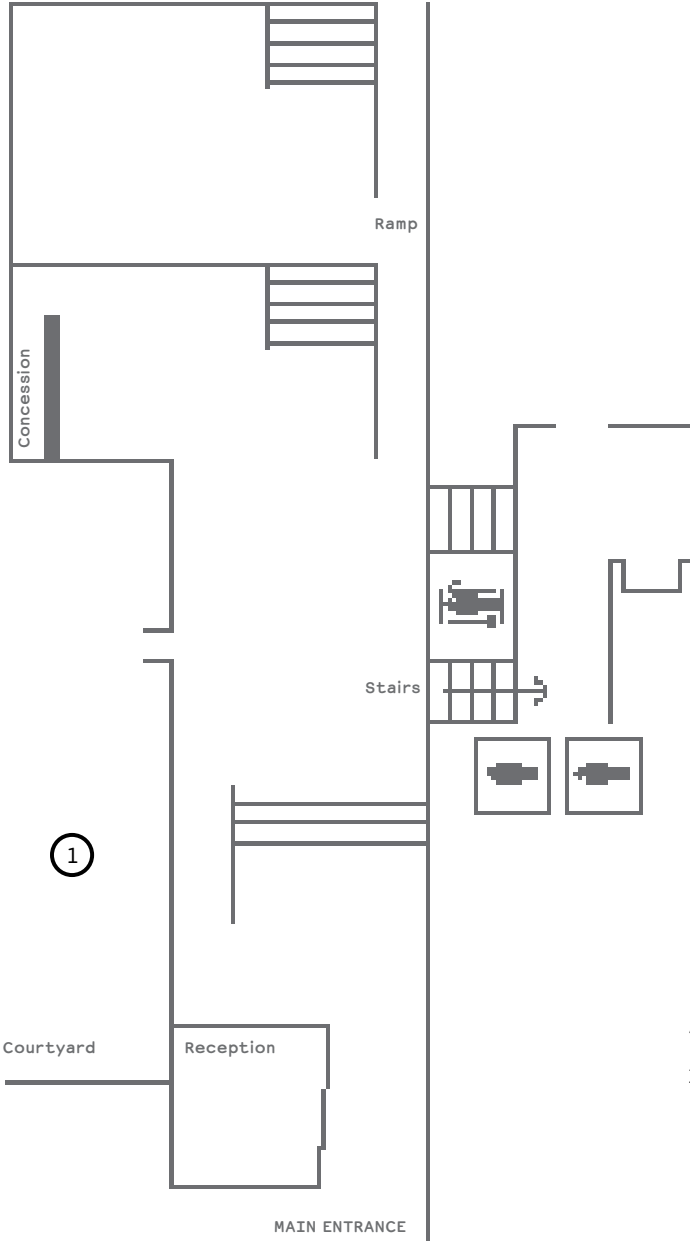
The summer project is Saskatoon artist Ellen Moffat’s *vBox* (2008) a multi-track vocal instrument of spatialized, granular, linguistic sounds and chance juxtaposition that language. Presented June 11 to August 28.

/ Dipna Horra: *Avaaz*

Based on an autobiographical story that revolves around the artist’s great-grandfather’s journey from the Punjab to Kenya, Ottawa-based artist Dipna Horra’s *Avaaz* (2010) animates everyday domestic objects with sound and voices recounting tales of movement, migration and transculturation. Presented September 5 to December 31.



Map



open sound
surrey art gallery
audio projects

/ Artwork location

1 Clang Clagan

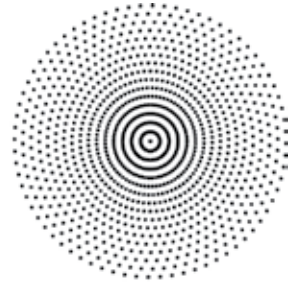


/ About Open Sound

Nests Built by Birds is part of the 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.

Open Sound



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