

Réflexions et réverbérations sonores  
*Sonic Fields of Reflection*



*Sonic Fields of Reflection*

Curator: Mojeanne Behzadi

From October 21 to December 23, 2022

**ARTEXTE**

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## Foreword

Manon Tourigny

Having been hired just days before the pandemic outbreak in March 2020, curator Mojeanne Behzadi finally presents her first exhibition at Artexpte. Already well-acquainted with the podcast format after curating the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts series *Trajectories*, and through exchanges with colleagues, Mojeanne takes this opportunity to highlight audio projects that were either unavailable since their initial broadcast, are not archived, or, if they are, that address subjects that may still be of potential interest to listeners today. Given Artexpte's mandate to preserve any document that can inform the many issues raised by current art practices, it's important to us to increase the longevity of these often-ephemeral works.

*Sonic Fields of Reflection* invites you to travel across time through an immersive experience that reflects the concept of *radical softness*, a methodology that redefines our relationship to the Other and the environment in which we evolve. Jonathan Shouela and Rihab Essayh contribute visual works that convert Artexpte's exhibition space into a setting for intimate and sensitive listening sessions focused on Mojeanne's selection of audio works. The gallery will also be the site of round-table discussions that will be open to the public and recorded live. What sets *Sonic Fields of Reflection* apart is its focus on making these discussions more accessible, something that is lost in other types of podcasts that are recorded at home or in a broadcast studio.

On behalf of Artexpte, I would like to thank Mojeanne for envisioning a project that promotes a softness-centered experience and highlights our own organizational practices, which are based on the notion of *care*, both in terms of the materials we are entrusted with, and the people who work to fulfill our organization's mandate or who use our

services. I would also like to thank Jonathan Lachance for his technical expertise in preparing for this exhibition, Nick Schofield who will record the five sessions for our digital archive, and to all the artists, organizations, and contributors who are part of this project or who will share their experiences with us. Finally, I would like to thank the board of directors for their invaluable support and faith in our team. I couldn't have written this foreword without you!





## *Sonic Fields of Reflection*

Mojeanne Behzadi

*Sonic Fields of Reflection* focuses on the legacies and potentialities of sound as a carrier of information, histories, and experiences in the field of contemporary art. The exhibition highlights sound's propensity—as document and as praxis—as a means for social engagement and to embrace a spirit of community activism. From October 21 through December 23, our exhibition space will be transformed into an experimental research room specially imagined for listening, reading, recording, resting, and meditating on sound. The exhibition draws attention to community radio practices, oral history projects, discursive approaches such as conversations and interviews, as well as music and oral poetry. Over the space of two months, we will invite the public to attend roundtable discussions with special guests—these will also be recorded for Artexte's podcast. We will present interviews and conversations, notably with members of the community radio scene who are also involved in the visual arts.

A series of sound works by local artists from Tio'tià:ke/Mooniyang/Montréal, spanning the last four years, can be experienced in the space. We invite visitors to tune in to our current social, artistic, and psychic moment through this mosaic of artistic frequencies. These projects include a radio documentary, commissioned by Ada X and produced by Julia Dyck, Amanda Harvey, and Belen Rebecca Arenas for a weekly radio program hosted by the *ffiles* (or *fka XX Files*), a feminist media collective, on CKUT 90.3 FM. The show also presents a restaging of Centre CLARK's *Poste Audio* featuring two of its past works: Jamie Ross's *Club Gemini* (2019-2022) and Rouzbeh Shadpey's *by these straits to die* (2022). These will be accompanied by an interview between Shadpey and Centre CLARK cultural mediator

Prakash Krishnan. The four above mentioned productions pay tribute to two of our city's artist-run spaces, both with long histories of engaging with sound practices in their programming. Another work featured in the exhibition is *Veiller le souffle* (2021), a partly instrumental, partly spoken-word recording by artist, writer, and editor Marilou Craft and musician, improviser, and composer-arranger Elyze Venne-Deshaies. Finally, visitors will discover a deep-dive conversation between artists Hajra Waheed and Reece Cox, on Waheed's sound installation *Hum* (2020). The conversation was recorded for *INFO Unltd*, a series of monthly discussions about sound in the field of contemporary art, hosted by Cox on Cashmere Radio, a Berlin-based community experimental radio station.

Artists Jonathan Schouela and Rihab Essayh have created and contributed textile art installations that will inspire visitors to stretch the time they spend in the exhibition. Loosely paying reverence to the *Dream House*—a permanent light and sound installation begun in 1962 by composer La Monte Young and visual artist Marian Zazeela, and first premiered publicly in 1969—the space is intended to be immersive, inviting, and plush. A large-scale textile installation of modular foam bricks titled *Quarry* (2020-2022), by artist Jonathan Schouela, inhabits Artexte's gallery. The bricks are upholstered in sandstone-tinted fabrics and simultaneously evoke the comforts of the domestic environment, raw architectural building materials, rubble, and the sleek, minimalist sculptures of artists like Donald Judd. On one level, *Quarry* is envisioned as a functional art installation, as its presence helps soundproof the space. On another, visitors are encouraged to engage with the installation, transforming and regenerating the bricks into imaginative structures. Schouela has also included a custom-built round table, which sits amidst the installation and has been fitted out as a recording

studio space, to be activated punctually over the course of the exhibition. A hand-dyed translucent curtain titled *Vitrail* (2022), by artist Rihab Essayh, forms a portal into the gallery, symbolically removing it from everyday reality and revealing, ethereally, the space's sonic environment.

Among the motivations for this exhibition project are the many reflections and conversations that happen in the course of Artexte's collection activities and are shared among our team at our weekly meetings. As a documentation centre, Artexte's mandate is to collect documents on contemporary artistic practices to ensure their preservation and safeguard the memories they hold, as well as to promote and facilitate research. Although most of our documents are print publications, we also have an important audio-visual document collection that includes VHS tapes, DVDs, CDs, cassettes, and vinyl LPs. While we have been cataloguing audio documents for a long time, Artexte has recently started to deposit digital audio publications on its e-artexte digital repository—publications such as *Radio Atelier*, a radio show on the visual arts hosted by Benjamin J. Allard on CIBL (our 2-22 neighbours) from 2018 to 2021. Our collection also includes digital versions of the *Griche* podcast, by Sylvain Aubé, which consists of interviews with sound artists. These recent endeavours highlight important considerations for our librarians, faced as they are with the preservation challenges posed by the exploding field of radio shows, podcasts, and other sound documents as they emerge as new forms of visual arts publications. As with many born-digital documents, their nature is ephemeral and their lifespans can be short, so there is a certain urgency to ensure their longevity. In our programming, we aim to draw the curtain and focus attention on librarians, archivists, and documentation technicians who perform the important work of preserving the traces of these practices for posterity.



## List of artworks

### *Sonic Fields of Reflection*

#### Sound pieces and artworks

Marilou Craft and Elyze Venne-Deshaies

*Veiller le souffle* (2020)

Digital album, 00:30:28

ffiles FKA xx files

[Julia E Dyck, Amanda Harvey and Belen Rebecca Arenas]

*Made in Residence: History XX Files* (2017-2019)

Audio recording, 00:35:23

Jamie Ross

*Club Gemini* (2019-2022)

Stereo audio track, 00:19:57

Rouzbeh Shadpey

*by these straits to die* (2022)

Audio recording, 01:35:04

Rouzbeh Shadpey and Prakash Krishnan [Centre CLARK]

*Artist Talk: Rouzbeh Shadpey* (2022)

Interview with Prakash Krishnan, 00:16:03

Hajra Waheed and Reece Cox [Cashmere Radio]

*INFO Unltd with Hajra Waheed on “Hum” and Abolitionist Modes of Listening* (December 3, 2020)

Interview with Reece Cox, 01:11:38

#### Textiles and sculptural artworks

Rihab Essayh

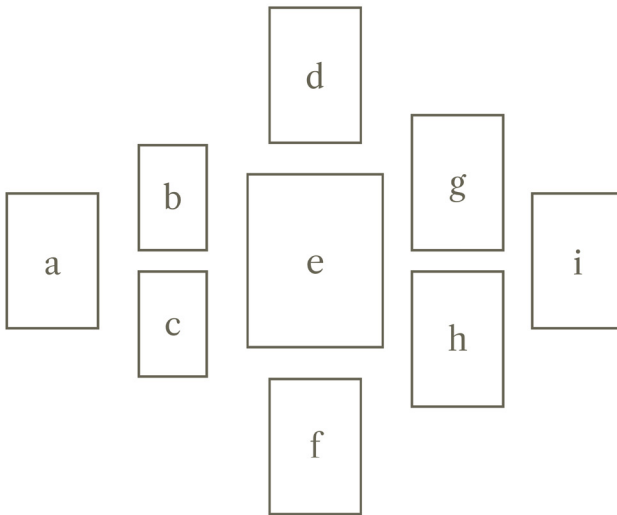
*Vitrail* (2020)

Hand-dyed polyester chiffon

Jonathan Schouela  
*Quarry* (2020-2022)  
Soy-based foam and mixed fabrics

Jonathan Schouela  
*Round Table* (2022)  
Baltic birch and pine

Atworks on paper and documents



a. *Høwl Live*

November 13, 2013

Poster by Kevin Lo [studio LOKI]

Event coordinated by Stefan Christoff [CKUT]

Hosted by Nick Schofield

Personal archives [Stefan Christoff]

b. *Wired on Words and Music*

June 15, 2004

Poster by Stefan Christoff [CKUT]

Personal archives [Stefan Christoff]

- c. *Refugee Camps are no One's Home*  
November 15, 2003  
Poster by Stefan Christoff [CKUT]  
Personal archives [Stefan Christoff]
- d. *d'bi young. Kalmunity Vibe Collective*  
November 18, 2012  
Poster by Jesse Purcell [Justseeds]  
Event coordinated by Stefan Christoff [CKUT]  
Personal archives [Stefan Christoff]
- e. *CKUT Montréal Radio McGill 18e anniversaire*  
2006  
Poster by Jesse Purcell [Justseeds]  
Personal archives [Stefan Christoff]
- f. *Breaking the Sound Barrier! From Montreal to Beirut*  
June 9, 2005  
Poster by Stefan Christoff [CKUT]  
Event coordinated by Stefan Christoff [CKUT]  
Personal archives [Stefan Christoff]
- g. *Resistance Radio: The People Airwaves*  
July 11 to September 29, 2019  
Poster by Interference Archives [Justseeds]  
Exhibition of Interference Archives, Brooklyn, NY
- h. *Radio Venceremos*  
March 2022  
Poster by Kevin Caplicki [Justseeds]  
Comunity Printers, Santa Cruz CA
- i. *Audio Interference Podcast* [Brooklyn, NY]  
2015 - [printed in April 2018]  
Poster by Dilhan Kushan and Interference Archives  
[Justseeds]

Fortner Anderson

*Allo-Poèmes Montréal — Dial-a-Poem Montreal* (1985)

Archives [ARCMTL]

Elias Anastas, Yousef Anastas, Saeed Abu Jaber,

Mothanna Hussein and Ibrahim Owais

*Radio AlHara* (2020 - )

Graphism by Semaan Khawam

Pete Railand

*Listen a Change is Coming Now* (2021)

Screen Print 9/50 [Justseeds]



## Biography

Mojeanne Behzadi

Mojeanne Behzadi is a curator and poet based in Tiohtià:ke/Mooniyang/Montreal. She is currently the director of Art Speaks, an international contemporary art lecture series and the curator of research and programs at Artexte. Mojeanne holds an MA in Art History from Concordia University and works as an independent curator on numerous projects. She recently developed and hosted the *Trajectories* podcast for the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and she curated the *Spillover Love* exhibition at the Stewart Hall Art Gallery in Pointe-Claire in 2021. Her current curatorial research focuses on love as a radical tool for resistance, mobilization and social transformation.

## Acknowledgements

Mojeanne Behzadi

This exhibition is born out of a true community effort, starting with my teammates at Artexte (past and present): Sarah Watson, H el ene Brousseau, Manon Tourigny, Jessica H ebert, Anabelle Chass e, Jonathan Lachance, Marie-Claire M eriau and Alessandra Iavarone have each been essential to seeing this idea through and I am indebted to each one of them for their help and support. Mark Lowe, Jonathan Schouela, Natacha Chamko (Atelier Clark), Luba Markovskaia, Jo-Anne Balcan and Edwin Janzen were indispensable collaborators of our organization during the making of the show.

My thinking around sound has been brewing for many years through many conversations with artists, friends and collaborators like Nick Schofield, Stefan Christoff, Jean Cousin, Charlotte Loseth and many others. This show certainly wouldn't have become reality without our many deliberations on the subject.

And of course, I thank the artists and producers who have accepted to be a part of this sonic and visual exploration, and who have loaned documents to us for the exhibition! Thank you Marilou Craft and Elyze Venne-Deshaies, *files FKA xx files* (Julia Dyck, Amanda Harvey and Belen Rebecca Arenas), Jamie Ross, Rouzbeh Shadpey, Prakash Krishnan and the Centre CLARK, Hajra Waheed and Reece Cox, Jonathan Schouela, Rihab Essayh, as well as Stefan Christoff, and Louis Rastelli (ARCMTL) and Elias Anastas (Radio AlHara). I also want to thank all the collaborators we will be recording podcasts with during the exhibition and whose names will soon be revealed.



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