

SONIC
SOUNDINGS

A project curated by
ERIKA TAN

VENICE TRAJECTORIES

VENICE —
ITALY

Larry Achiampong / Song-Ming Ang / Barby Asante / Chi Bagtas / Yason Banal (2017 VB only) / Libita Clayton & Benjamin One / Lizza May David / Kimathi Donkor / bani haykal / Annie Jael Kwan & Lynn Lu / Anthony Lam / susan pui san lok / Adam Patterson / Geetanjali Sayal & Juhi Saklani & Anshul Kapoor / Sunil Shah / Michael Taiwo / Tintin Wulia / Abbas Zahedi

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Sonic Soundings / Venice Trajectories is a form of intervention. Originally created as a sonic counterpart to the 57th Venice Biennale, the project continues to exist online and as a virtual geography, acting less as a trace or echo, and more as a reminder in the context of a nation-state-orientated-biennale, of the on-going issues and fallout with border control, its policing and enforcement. Here, the practice in nautical or navigational charting where a sonic signal is released in anticipation of an echo is used as a metaphor to (re)map the Biennale through fluid encounters, borderless connections and archipelagic thinking.

The project, mediated through an app, frames the National Pavilions and other projects as a constellation of islands, whose connections, both visible and under the radar, are articulated as sound reverberating in the alleyways, canals, campi, palazzi and pavilions. Whether diasporic, anti-state, transnational, interpersonal, or intergalactic these sonic objects seeded across Venice, echo and resonate, intervening into art world spheres, gated routes, daily life, and the geography of the city.

Contributors come from across Europe and Asia and reflect a diverse approach to Venice, the Biennale, the current global crisis over borders and citizenship, but also to the medium of sound. Soundscapes, audio walking guides, narrative encounters and acoustic interventions, all reminders of the ability of sound to both permeate and articulate space, and redefine meaning and representation.

The project is curated by Erika Tan, with design and technical support by Benjamin Chan & Malone Chen.

For further press / project information please contact: erikataninfo@gmail.com

Sonic Soundings / Venice Trajectories is a geo-locational sound tour and is experienced in Venice via 'ECHOES' a free app downloaded onto listeners' smartphones. To find [out more and to download the app](#) please visit the website:

www.sonicsoundings.com

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Supported by Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London and Creative Unions. Creative Unions is an initiative of Central Saint Martins and the other Colleges of University of the Arts London bringing together events, actions, and voices to demonstrate that creativity must operate across borders – geographical, social and disciplinary.

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APP INFORMATION

The 'ECHOES' geolocation sound APP is free to download for Android and iPhone. Once the APP is downloaded, you can search for the project: **'Sonic Soundings: Venice Trajectories'**.

Download the project and all project files whilst on WIFI, then keep your 'location' and 'data' on for an optimum experience. As the project files are already downloaded, mobile data is used only for a more accurate GPS signal.

The works are made to be listened to in particular locations, some are single sound files, others sonic environments. As you walk around Venice, the sound works will automatically be triggered. Information on each work and any specific instructions for engagement will be available on the APP at that point.

The works can be experienced within one day, and are placed along major Biennale routes. A list of works and artists names and locations can be found on the opening page of the APP. Route planning is possible using a specific Google Map made to accompany the project: MAP

Remote listening is also possible by clicking onto the map, or list of works. Please note, the works have been made with the experience of geolocation in mind, and as such, some works experienced remotely will be fragmentary.

Headphones are advisable for most works.

For APP FAQ's and downloading instructions please visit:

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ARTISTS AND CONTRIBUTORS:

Larry Achiampong has exhibited, performed and presented projects internationally including Tate Britain/Modern, London; Hauptbahnhof (dOCUMENTA 13), Kassel; Modern Art Oxford, Oxford; New Art Exchange, Nottingham; SAVVY Contemporary, Berlin; Bokoor African Popular Music Archives Foundation, Accra. He is currently presenting work in the Diaspora Pavilion during the 57th Venice Biennale.

Song-Ming Ang makes art revolving around the everyday and popular culture, with sound as a recurrent interest. His works have been presented at Camden Arts Centre (London), Haus der Kulturen der Welt (Berlin), Witte de With (Rotterdam), Museum of Contemporary Art (Sydney), Museum Voorlinden (Wassenaar), 3rd Singapore Biennale, and 14th Istanbul Biennial.

Barby Asante is an artist, curator and educator whose work seeks to create spaces for dialogue, collective thinking, ritual and re-enactment. Using archival material in the broadest sense, she is interested in breaking down the language of the archive to interrupt, interrogate and explore the effects and possibilities of the unheard and the missing. She is currently presenting work in the Diaspora Pavilion during the 57th Venice Biennale (2017).

Chi Bagtas is a multidisciplinary artist whose practice consists of sculpture, video, sound and performance. Her practice explores notions of transnational consciousness in relation to her peripatetic upbringing while investigating the palpability of interactions and relationship outcomes that happen through a participatory practice.

Yason Banal's practice traverses media, exploring links and refractions among seemingly divergent systems. He has exhibited widely including at the Tate Modern, Frieze Projects, Singapore Biennale, Shanghai Biennale, Bangkok Art and Culture Center and Museum of Contemporary Art and Design, and has curated exhibitions for Osage Art Foundation, Andy Warhol Museum and the Asia Pacific Triennial. (Yason Banal's work was available only during the 57th Venice Biennale)

Benjamin Chan & Malone Chen are graphic design students currently studying at Central Saint Martins, UAL. The duo have formed a collaborative partnership that is interested in experimenting in new interactive forms of communication and explores a playful approach to design.

Libita Clayton & Benjamin One: Clayton's practice is found somewhere in the cracks. Recent collaborations include: Bland Choreography, New Year / New Noise 4, Arnolfini; RESIST FLOW, (Gal-Dem) Victoria and Albert Museum; 1,2,1,2, /// Black- Voices Opera, Royal West Academy of England, UK. She is currently exhibiting with the Diaspora Pavilion during the 57th Venice Biennale. Benjamin One comes from a grassroots graffiti culture, true to the DIY lifestyle he has been immersed in the pirate radio and Hip Hop scene for the last 20 years. Sound designer, vocalist, producer, and collaborator on projects including: Universal Magnetic, Rebel Instinct, Ghost Locust and Abf films.

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Lizza May David's previous work has been autobiographical and investigates issues of identity, labour/migration and memory. Currently she juxtaposes media-based materials with a studio-based painting practice in order to question indexical affinities and investigate different perspectives on painting within a transnational framework. David studied at the Academy of Fine Arts Nuremberg and University of Arts Berlin, Germany.

Dr Kimathi Donkor's work has featured in solo and group exhibitions: The New Art Exchange (Nottingham, 2017), Gallery MOMO in Johannesburg (2015), Rivington Place (London, 2012), the 29th São Paulo Biennial (2010) and the Bettie Morton Gallery (London, 2004). Donkor is currently presenting work in the Diaspora Pavilion at the 57th Venice Biennale.

bani haykal experiments with text and music. As an artist, composer and musician, bani considers music (making/processes) as a metaphor for cybernetics and his projects revolve around modes of interfacing and interaction in feedback/feedforward mechanisms. He is a member of b-quartet and Soundpainting ensemble Erik Satay & The Kampong Arkestra.

Annie Jael Kwan & Lynn Lu: A collaboration between visual and performance artist, Lynn Lu and independent curator, Annie Jael Kwan, who have worked together on a number of projects exploring the spaces of in-between and proximities. Both Lu and Kwan work between Singapore and London, with the many exchanges between cultural and living contexts informing their critical perspectives.

Anthony Lam is a photographer and senior lecturer who is engaged with interrogating and expanding his relationship to photography and society. Lam's diverse practice is located within conceptual, representational and social concerns, addressing issues of identity, culture and place from a personal and social political viewpoint.

susan pui san lok is an artist and writer, working across installation, moving image, sound, performance and text. Projects include Deviant Practice at Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, and Black Artists and Modernism at UAL and Middlesex University. She is currently exhibiting with the Diaspora Pavilion during the 57th Venice Biennale.

Adam Patterson's work emerges from imagining strategies of resistance in the face of neo-colonial encounters and desires that affect Barbados and the Caribbean region. Regarding the processes by which 'paradise' shapes the Caribbean, the artist is invested in subverting the lens and language of such, in service to the region's self-image.

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Geetanjali Sayal & Juhi Saklani & Anshul Kapoor: Cross Pollinat/In Venice is a collaboration between Architecture, Poetry and Sound, between Architects Geetanjali Sayal, with an MA in Narrative Environments from Central Saint Martins, Anshul Kapoor, heading a Sound Design and Film studio in India and a Writer/Photographer/Translator Juhi Saklani, who writes lyrics, screenplays for films and TV serials. Having previously collaborated between India and London, these three use their work to look beyond simply the structural and functional aspects of human, cultural and political dimensions of the environment.

Sunil Shah is an artist and curator. He is interested in the politics of representation and conceptual, post-documentary and archival art practices in relation to history, memory and identity. He is a writer on Photography and associate editor of American Suburb X, an online photography and visual culture platform.

Michael Taiwo is a multi-disciplinary artist who focuses on questioning the role of race in the perception of identity and challenging the conventions of gender roles through spoken word and movement based works. His work fixates on the interplay of these elements to create narratives that capture moments of vulnerability in their rawest form.

Erika Tan is an artist and curator whose practice is primarily research-led. Recent projects have focused on the postcolonial and transnational, working with archival artefacts, exhibition histories, received narratives, contested heritage, subjugated voices and the transnational movement of ideas, people and objects. She is currently exhibiting in the Diaspora Pavilion during the 57th Venice Biennale.

Tintin Wulia's practice is informed by critical geopolitics. Trained as a composer (BMus, Berklee 1997), architect (BEng, Parahyangan 1998) and artist (PhD, RMIT 2014), her Creative Australia Fellowship 2014-2016 focuses on things that traverse borders and link humans. Wulia represents Indonesia at the 57th Venice Biennale with an internetworked project.

Abbas Zahedi is a multi-disciplinary artist. His practice ranges across photography, installation, performance, moving image, and participatory events, which entwine expressive and socially engaged modes of being. Zahedi is currently exhibiting his latest installation MANNA at the Diaspora Pavilion during the 57th Venice Biennale.

For further details on the sound works, please visit:
www.sonicsoundings.com

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