

The Old Operating Theatre, 9a St. Thomas St, London, 17 November 2006, 7pm.

RADIO GALLERY: THE TRANS-COMMUNICATION LAB

Curated by Carl Michael Von Hausswolff and Lina Dzuverovic (Electra)

**Featuring Carl Michael von Hausswolff, Jon Ronson, Olivia Plender, Jacob Kirkegaard
with voiceover by Rob Young (The Wire Magazine)**

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The Trans-Communication Lab is the closing event in the Radio Gallery series of events and radio programmes, curated by Anna Colin, which examine radio as exhibition space. The event reverses the overall concept of Radio Gallery by re-imagining physical space as radio and setting up a 60 minute 'broadcast environment' in which a host of artists, researchers and journalists investigate and demonstrate live attempts at 'interdimensional' communication.

The term Transcommunication in the title references 'Instrumental Trans-communication', a term coined by the a German physicist, professor Ernst Senkowski, to describe the technique of contacting spirits, using any electronic means in order to capture their images (ITC), or record their voices (EVP : Electronic Voice Phenomena).

In the context of this event the term transcommunication is used in a much wider sense, to include all modes of communication that fall outside of conventional methods of conveying information.

In tonight's event for the first time Danish artist Jacob Kirkegaard's performs live his technique of 'sonic time layering ' in order to evoke the spirit of the space. Kirkegaard will record the sounds of the Old Operating Theatre live, gradually layering the sound until the inner spirit of the space is evoked, in front of our very ears.

This evening we will also hear examples of Electronic Voice Phenomena from the archive of Friedrich Jürgenson, presented by the event's co-curator Carl Michael von Hausswolff. Friedrich Jürgenson was a painter and film director who came across voices from 'the other side' while listening to field recordings of birdsongs he had recorded. This led him to a 28-year study of what he believed were spirits communicating with us through sound recording technologies. He continued his work searching the origins of his voices that he believed to be derived from the hypothetical afterlife until his death in Sweden in 1987. The Friedrich Jürgenson Foundation was set up in 2000 by Carl Michael von Hausswolff, in conjunction with the exhibition "Friedrich Jürgenson - from the Studio for Audioscopic Research" held at Färgfabriken the same year.

This evening Carl Michael von Hausswolff will also conduct a serial Spiricom transmission in order to investigate possible spiritual activity within the Old Operating Theatre Emergency Ward, by performing a series of different combinations of 13 sine wave tones between 131 and 701 Hz and sending them, and possibly one or several spirits, across the room."

Journalist Jon Ronson will read from his book 'The Men Who Stare At Goats' (Simon & Schuster, 2005). In 1979 a secret unit was established by the most gifted minds within the US Army. Defying all known accepted military practice - and indeed, the laws of physics - they believed that a soldier could adopt the cloak of invisibility, pass cleanly through walls and, perhaps most chillingly, kill goats just by staring at them. With first-hand access to the leading players in the story, in the book Ronson traces the evolution of these bizarre activities over the past three decades, and sees how it is alive today within US Homeland Security and post-war Iraq. In this event Ronson will talk about the use of sound as torture mechanism.

Olivia Plender performs a live ghost story.

About the participants:

Carl Michael von Hausswolff is a composer, visual artist and curator based in Stockholm, Sweden. His main tools are recording devices (camera, tape deck, radar, sonar) used in an ongoing investigation of electricity, frequency, architectural space and paranormal electronic interference. He is an expert in the work of Friedrich Jürgenson, electronic voice phenomena (EVP) a researcher who claimed to have detected voices of the dead hidden in radio static. Major exhibitions include documenta X (1997), the Johannesburg Biennial (1997), Sound Art - Sound as Media at ICC in Tokyo (2000), the Venice Biennale (2001, 2003 and 2005) and Portikus, Frankfurt (2004). Hausswolff received a Prix Ars Electronica award for Digital Musics in 2002. He is the curator and producer of freq_out.

Olivia Plender researches historical 'alternatives' to industrial society addressing two separate but parallel areas: Romanticism and non-conformist religious movements, and their current legacies. She produces drawings, posters and small-scale publications, as well as performances, lectures and installations. Recent work includes a comic book set in an imaginary London avant-garde of the past called 'The Masterpiece' and 'Monitor' performed at Tate Britain 2006. Plender is currently researching The Modern Spiritualist Movement and The Kindred of the Kibbo Kift, two non-conformist religious movements from the 19th and early 20th century that overlapped with socialism, the Co-operative movement and the campaign for women's suffrage. Adopting the methodology of the sociologist as a kind of role-playing exercise, she has interviewed mediums, parapsychologists, as well as historians and staged events such as 'A Public Meeting to Address the Phenomenon of Materialization' at Bethnal Green Working Man's Club, London. She is currently writing a book on this area, titled 'A Stellar Key to the Summerland', to be published by Bookworks.

Jon Ronson is a writer and documentary film maker. His first book, 'Them: Adventures With Extremists', was an international bestseller. His most recent book is 'The Men Who Stare At Goats'. 'Them' was longlisted for The Guardian's First Book Award, until it was disqualified for not being, strictly speaking, his first book. He began his journalistic career as an award-winning columnist for Time Out. He has also written the popular 'Human Zoo' and 'Out of the Ordinary' columns for The Guardian, where he contributes features. He produced the BBC Radio 4 documentary 'Hotel Auschwitz', and currently writes and presents the Sony nominated Radio 4 series, 'Jon Ronson On...'. He has also made acclaimed programmes for Channel 4 and BBC2.

Jacob Kirkegaard investigates sonic membranes and discrete interference occurring in different environments. A graduate of the Academy of Media Arts in Cologne Germany, Kirkegaard has lectured on archaeological and spatial aspects of sound at the Academy of Architecture in Copenhagen. His works include live performances, film music, installations and compositions – 'Soaked', a collaboration with Philip Jeck (Touch, 2002), '01.02' (Bottrop-boy) and 'Eldfjall' (Touch, 2005). In his latest work for Touch, '4 Rooms' (2006), Kirkegaard explores the sonic legacy of Chernobyl. Jacob Kirkegaard has been presented at The Museum of Contemporary Art in Denmark, KIASMA art museum in Finland, Kölnischer Kunstverein, Gallery Rachel Haferkamp and at the Transmediale in Germany. He is also a member of freq_out.

Rob Young is Editor-at-Large at The Wire magazine and a contributor to Uncut, Frieze, Art Review, The Guardian and others. His latest book is 'Rough Trade: Labels Unlimited', published by Black Dog.

Lina Dzuverovic is the Executive Director of Electra which she co-founded in May 2003. She has recently been named the 2006 deciBel Mid-Career Curatorial Fellow. Formerly Lina was New Media Curator at London's ICA and prior to this she worked for The Wire Magazine, Mute Magazine, The Lux Centre for Film, Video and Digital Art and the Pandaemonium Festival Of The Moving Image. Recent projects with Electra include a film/performance commission 'Perfect Partner' by Kim Gordon, Tony Oursler and Phil Morrison (Barbican Centre, London + European tour 2005), group exhibition 'Her Noise' (South London Gallery), 'Sound And The Twentieth Century Avant Garde' lectures (Tate Modern), soundtrack consultancy on films by Daria Martin, working with composers Zeena Parkins and Maja Ratkje respectively, 'The Sounds Of Christmas' installation by Christian Marclay (Tate Modern), 'Emotional Orchestra' and 'Sheer Frost Orchestra' by Marina Rosenfeld (Tate Modern), 'Once Seen' Programme for The British Council (Oslo and Tromsø, Norway). Lina has written for contemporary art and music magazines including Artforum, Contemporary, Mute, The Wire and Res Magazine.

Anna Colin lives and works in London as an independent curator, critic and radio producer for Resonance 104.4fm. Recent projects include 'Radio Gallery', 2006, 'radio.territories', 2006 and 'Six Sites for Sound', 2005. Since early 2006, she's been involved in setting up and programming 'Canal' (www.canalonyner.org), a space for discussion and the presentation and exchange of artistic ideas. As a critic, she is the London correspondent for Art Press, Paris and a regular contributor to Untitled, London and Particules, Paris.

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Radio Gallery and Electra would like to thank Karen Howell, Curator at the Old Operating Theatre, Museum
and Herb Garret and all the staff at the Old Operating Theatre for helping with the coordination of the event.

Finally, we would like to thank Resonance 104.4fm who has been the main partner in Radio Gallery. This event
will be recorded and be broadcast on coming Monday 20th November on Resonance 104.4fm and on the web
www.resonancefm.com from 7-8pm.



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