

ECHOES - CONNECTIONS

Crafting Eco-systems through Soundscapes Interactions: a participatory Sound-walk experience



Echoes - Connections is a dynamic and modular workshop that delves deep into the sonic ecosystem of a place. Drawing inspiration from the pioneering work of [Raymond Murray Schafer](#) and [Hildegard Westerkamp](#), who paved the way for [Soundscapes](#) research in the 1970s, we embark on a unique exploration of [Sound-walking](#) and the perception of time. Taking cues from Westerkamp's perspective, we embrace sound-walking as an immersive experience that prioritizes attentive listening to the environment, allowing our ears to absorb every sound, regardless of our location. Through this workshop, we aim to chart our own path in the art of sound-walk and uncover new dimensions of auditory exploration.

These workshops are designed to delve into the essence of a place's soundscapes. Through more than just walking, listening and recording sounds, we seek to introduce interactions into these sonic environments. Recognizing our role as humans within these sonic ecosystems, where we continuously shape and modify them, our intention is to expand upon the existing soundscapes without imposing any judgments. Our approach is entirely subjective, aiming to add an additional layer to the rich tapestry of sound that surrounds us.

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The primary objective of this proposal and the underlying reflections is to foster an expanded realm of interactions between sonic ecosystems, humans, and the diverse elements that extend beyond human boundaries. In pursuit of this goal, participants will play a pivotal role in this project, assuming the roles of both soundscape creators and explorers.

To facilitate a comprehensive understanding, I propose a broad categorization of soundscapes into three distinct layers. The first layer encompasses the natural soundscape, characterized by the harmonies of birdsong, the gentle caress of wind, and other organic elements. The second layer represents the urban soundscape, a vibrant tapestry interwoven with the bustling symphony of cars, phones, planes, and the vibrant pulse of city life. By introducing an additional layer, we create the opportunity to forge new connections and explore the interplay between all three layers. This emergent sonic ecosystem will act as a sound prism, a bridge, and an amplifier, revealing the intricate and rapid twists and turns of our society in the year 2023 and beyond.

In practice, the concept revolves around utilizing various electronic modules comprising motors, fans, solenoids (such as the [Pavillon Boxes](#)), drumsticks, and other noise-making devices to delve into the third layer—the artistic, the metaphorical, and the thought-provoking. This exploration aims to elicit responses, whether in the form of answers or further questions.

Equipped with these tools and electronic devices, a collective of sound-walkers will engage in a tactile interaction with their surroundings. Through tapping, scratching, causing vibrations, and resonating objects, architecture, plants, trees, and even the ground itself, a new layer will emerge. This innovative approach will not only address ecological urgency but also compose with the existing layers, allowing for sound and time experimentation within an entirely new soundscape framework. In this participatory endeavor, a novel ecosystem will be formed, where creativity and collaboration intertwine.

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As mentioned previously, this workshop offers a modular structure that can be tailored to different formats. It can be designed as a one-off session, allowing participants to engage in a concentrated experience within a single gathering. Alternatively, it can be expanded into a multi-day course, providing a more comprehensive and in-depth exploration of the subject matter. The flexibility of the workshop allows for adaptation based on the needs and preferences of the participants and the desired outcomes of the learning experience.

As an example, we can create a preliminary two-day course dedicated to constructing electronic exploratory modules.

Day 1: Inspired by two previous sound installations: [Pavillon](#) & [pause. between lawn&cuffs](#), the first day could be focused on introducing participants to the fundamentals of electronics and providing hands-on experience in building electronic modules. Guided by instructors, participants will learn about Arduino-based technology and how to assemble electronic components.

Day 2: Drawing inspiration from concepts such as [degrowth](#) and other ecological theories, we will delve deeper into forging a profound connection with the environment. Following in the footsteps of artists like [Pierre Berthet](#), [Rie Nakajima](#), [Jeph Jerman](#), or [Frederic Le Junter](#), we will shift our focus to using less sophisticated materials and objects. In line with our Eco-conscious approach, we will directly collect and repurpose found and recycled materials from the workshop's surroundings. This creative exploration will encourage resourcefulness and highlight the potential for artistic expression through sustainable practices, aligning with our commitment to environmental consciousness.

Through practical exercises and collaborative learning, participants will gain the necessary skills to construct their own exploratory modules.

Day 3 day 4 and day 5: Subsequently, to further enhance the participatory aspect of this project, participants can engage in exploration using either the newly constructed exploratory modules or modules brought to the space. This collective group of sound-walkers will have the opportunity to embark on an exploration journey that can span one, two, or several days. During this extended period, they can delve deeper into their sonic investigations, immersing themselves in the process of interactive soundscapes and fostering a rich and collaborative experience either inside a space or outside, in the surroundings of the space.

Day 6 and 7: Lastly, a dedicated day of preparation can be allocated to a public exhibit, where we can showcase the outcomes of our peregrinations. This exhibition will serve as a platform to display the created modules, share the recorded results of our sonic Eco-system explorations, and engage in discussions about the theories and emotions encountered throughout the workshops. It will provide an opportunity to share our collective experiences with the broader community, fostering dialogue and reflection on the significance of interactive soundscapes and the interconnectedness between humans and their sonic environments.

