

Museum of Sound

A listening installation dedicated to Mika Vainio

Tommi Grönlund and Rikke Lundgreen initiated the *Museum of Sound* in 2020 while curating the exhibition *Mika Vainio 50Hz* at the Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art in Helsinki. The Museum of Sound is nomadic and in flux and is rooted in the essence of sound and listening. The *Museum of Sound* is a touring sound archive and listening room presented in various forms and adapting to different spaces and situations such as Tapies Foundation/Sonar Festival Barcelona, Sibelius Museum in Helsinki, Robert Johnson Archive in Frankfurt AM and Serralves Museum in Porto.

Alex Murray-Leslie (AUS/NO)

Alex Murray-Leslie is a performer, professor of Digital Performance at Trondheim Academy of Fine Art, NTNU and co-founder and member of Iconic Art-pop band Chicks on Speed (COS). COS is a collaborative group modeled in many ways on artistic movements for framing diverse practices, interventions and experiments, akin to the Bauhaus, the Situationist International, Fluxus and the KLF. COS was founded 28 years ago by Alex Murray-Leslie and Melissa E. Logan as a semi-open collaborative and collective banner for work rooted in feminist actions, cross-pollinating art, sound, fashion and design. Alex's solo and group work is renowned for pushing the boundaries of telematic, non/disciplinary performative experiences and pedagogical explorations, which synthesize multiple forms of pop edged, hybrid artist research and performance art practice.

Mika Vainio and Chicks on Speed were part of the same artistic scene and collaborated on several occasions. Mika Vainio, through Pan Sonic and COS shared a focus on making works and performances where the materiality of sound was central. Both practices see sound as a physical and personal experience.

Bruce Gilbert (UK)

Bruce Clifford Gilbert is an English musician that works in the line of performance, sound art and music for film and dance productions. His fascination with the possibilities of sound resonates in his sound works, which tend to be filmic, abstract and somewhat experimental in nature. A former art school student with a background in the British avant-garde music underground of the late 1960s, Bruce Gilbert was one of the founding members of the influential and experimental art-punk band Wire. Bruce Gilbert branched out into electronic music, performance art, music production, and DJ'ing during the band's extended periods of inactivity. In 2004, he left the Wire and has since been focusing on solo work and collaborations with visual artists and fellow experimental musicians.

Bruce Gilbert recorded an album titled *IBM* together with Mika Vainio and Pan Sonic and they played live together on certain occasions. Bruce Gilbert's explorations and works in the extended field of music and sound remained central for Mika Vainio.

KMRU / Joseph Kamaru (KENYA)

For Joseph Kamaru (KMRU) a Nairobi-born Berlin-based sound artist, sound is a sensorial medium through which social, material and conceptual interpretations are manifested and contested in his works. KMRU carries with him a repository of listening experiences from Nairobi and beyond. He expands his sonic practices and brings an awareness of surroundings through creative compositions, installations and performances. He has earned international acclaim for his performances and far-flung locales such as the Barbican, Berlin Atonal, CTM festival, Dekmantel, amongst others as well as profound releases on Editions Mego, Subtext, Seil Records, and Injazer Records.

KMRU and Mika Vainio have both released music works on Edition MEGO through Pita Rehberg. KMRU, like Mika Vainio, has worked with a multitude of sound sources in order to make a highly personal sound with textures and layers. The sound creates a specific situation for the listener, with the listener as an active participant.

Mieko Suzuki (JAP)

Mieko Suzuki is a sound artist, composer, and DJ from Hiroshima, based in Berlin. Her work explores the materiality of time and space through unconventional performances using drones, field recordings, vinyl fragments, and the crackle of electrical circuits. Mieko Suzuki's sound world combines raw power with delicate modulations, transforming spaces into playgrounds for sonic exploration. She has collaborated with choreographer Meg Stuart, theater director Johan Simons, and the avant-garde techno label Raster. Mieko Suzuki's ongoing projects include the trio Contagious with Andrea Neumann and Sabine Ercklentz, and the audiovisual performance Broken Vinyl with visual artist Claudia Rohrmoser. Since 2009, she has co-curated the multidisciplinary event Kookoo with Arno Raffener at OHM Gallery in Berlin.

Mieko Suzuki can be seen in relation to Mika Vainio's work, as she has an emphasis on texture, contrast and physical sound. Mieko Suzuki - like Mika Vainio - lets absence be as present as sound in her artistic work. Both artists see listening as a bodily as well as a mental act.

Rikke Lundgren (NO)

Rikke Lundgreen is an artist and curator who works with a range of techniques and expressions such as film, drawing and installation that all spring from or revolve around the use of sound. Rikke Lundgreen has exhibited extensively throughout the Nordic countries and the UK. She is the curator of the estate that administers Mika Vainio's studio, archive, and collections of records and books, remaining in Oslo, where Mika Vainio and Rikke Lundgreen lived together.

Thomas Knak (DK)

Thomas Knak is a Danish composer and music-producer, who has been a key figure within the electronic scene in Denmark since the early 1990's. Merging laid-back ambient and electronica sounds with more intense breakbeat manipulations in drum'n'bass, Thomas Knak moves forward to samples and cut-ups that echoes Musique Concrete. A meeting of shy analogue and digital sounds transform into layers of rhythmical displacements and melodic loops in a newfound patchwork.

Founding the label Hobby Industries in 1999, Thomas Knak's contribution to the Danish scene of sound art is significant in establishing a minimal and melodic electronica style and abstract sound environments, as well as in working across art related scenes, such as modern dance, theatre, film and the visual arts. Collaborations are countless in all types of artistic constellations and include both art installations, exhibitions and music producing for a.o. Carsten Nicolai/Alva Noto for the OPTO files project, as well as Nils Frahm, Glenn Johnson, Ryuichi Sakamoto, Jakob Bro and Björk. In the visual arts scene, his sound works have been presented in institutions around the world, from Kunstwerke in Berlin to DCC in Beijing.

The current sound of Thomas Knak, is based on field recordings, beat-trickery and melodic textures. His work is always playful but also complex, layered, and outspoken in the search for sonic optimization. Like Mika Vainio, Thomas Knak channels his influences into ambient, reduced, and twisted works.

Tommi Grönlund (FI)

Tommi Grönlund is an artist and musician and runs the record label Sähkö Recordings which he founded with Mika Vainio in 1993. Drawing from Tommi Grönlund's background in architecture, he and fellow artist Petteri Nisunen create sculptural installations and interventions in urban and natural environments. While using technology, sound and light as the primary material, as well as electric currents, or gravitational forces, their art addresses issues of space and physical phenomena and creates quietly evocative and formally striking works. The duo curated and represented Finland at the Venice Biennial 2001 and have exhibited throughout the world from Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam and Dundee Contemporary Arts in Australia to Shanghai Museum of Modern Art.