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RACC Press Releases

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September 16, 2008

Fanning Rejection at the Portland Building October 6-31, 2008



The Regional Arts & Culture Council presents the installation, ***Fanning Rejection***, by Beaverton sound artist Dan Senn in the Portland Building Installation Space, **October 6-31, 2008**. The Portland Building, located at 1120 SW 5th Avenue, is open to the public from 7am - 6pm, Monday through Friday.

The artist writes, "Imagine the Installation Space in the Portland Building filled with 20 talking rejection letters. Hanging from the ceiling, at a height of about 5-7 feet will be 20 slightly curled rejections letters printed on thermal paper. Each will have clipped to the top a poker chip, a nickel (5-cent piece) and a piezo element which extends to the ceiling on thin speaker wire. Using a special circuit, the sound of robotic voices will act as speaker diaphragms. The voicing of each letter will be intermittent and part of an ever-changing playback algorithm – where only 1 to 3 letters, on average, will be heard at any one time. The sounding of a letter will be heard within a range of 2 to 4 feet having the effect of drawing patrons into and around the installation. The idea is to draw patrons into the installation by its sculptural elements, and then into the installation itself as the machine voices sound the letters."

Background

Dan Senn is a composer, a sculptor of kinetic instruments for exhibition and performance, an experimental video artist for installation and proscenium play, and a documentary filmmaker. He performs and exhibits around the world. Trained as a French horn player and vocalist, he studied ceramics in 1972. In 1977 he built his first sculptural instrument and subsequently developed computer software to emulate the raku ceramic pottery firing process in musical compositions, which exhibit the peculiar paradox of raku – i.e., "highly considerate, non-linear systems which exist, in part, to confound the will of the artist." From 1994 to 2004 his instrument building centered on the development of pendulum-based instruments varying in size from 18" x 18" x 18" to outdoor versions covering 600sf. Living a portion of each year in Prague, he regularly tours Europe and the U.S., exhibiting and performing at festival and experimental venues. In 1995, he was awarded the McKnight Composer-in-Residence Award for Minnesota where, among other projects, he produce the "Catacombs of Yucatan Sound and Video Installation" within a remote limestone cave located in southeast Minnesota. In 1997, he was awarded the Artist Trust 10th Anniversary President's Award (Seattle). His scored music is published by Smith Publications, Sonic Arts Editions, and AM Percussion Publications. His recorded music is available from the artist, Experimental Musical Instruments and Periplum Records.

In addition to lecturing and leading workshops at various regional and national venues, Senn has lectured/presented at the 4th International Biennale: Vestiges of Industry in Prague (2007); the Academy of Fine Art in Poznan, Poland (2006); the Department of Music at the University of York in England (2003), and at the Kunstakademie

Münster, Germany (2003). His long list of exhibitions, performances and installations include the Montserrat Gallery in Beverly, Massachusetts, (2008); the Autzen Gallery at Portland State University (2008), the Asia Pacific Cultural Center in Tacoma (2007), the Portland Art Center (2007), as well as venues in New York City, Chicago, Seattle, Montana, California, Arizona, Poland, Germany and the Czech Republic. For more information on Dan, go to www.newsense-intermedium.com

Upcoming installations: Gabe Shaughnessy, November 10 – December 5; all the art that fits (employee art exhibit), December 10 – January 9, 2009; Carolyn Matsumoto, January 19 – February 13; Robert McConaughy, February 23 – March 20. For more information, contact RACC at 503.823.5111.

A website that features images, proposals and statements of all installations featured in the space since 1994 can be found at www.racc.org/installationspace.

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Through vision, leadership, and service, the Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC) works to integrate arts and culture in all aspects of community life. RACC serves the Portland, Oregon Metropolitan Region, including Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties.