BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART

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BLANTON MUSEUM’S 20th SOUNDSPACE TRANSFORMS
SOUNDS OF THE BODY INTO IMMERSIVE GALLERY PERFORMANCE

AUSTIN, Texas—October 9, 2018— The Blanton Museum of Art at The University of Texas at Austin will present SoundSpace: BioSounds on November 4, 2018 from 2:00–4:00pm. The 20th occurrence of the Blanton’s acclaimed program will feature performances and original compositions focused on the theme of the human body. Inspired by the corporeal sounds and processes as well as medical procedures and biological data, BioSounds will feature works that incorporate heartbeats, brainwaves, pacemakers, and other biological sounds.

“This program examines how we can use sound to expand our awareness of the body,” said Steve Parker SoundSpace Artistic Director and Austin-based musician, artist, and curator. “By translating biological processes, triggering neurological functions and memory, or communicating vast amounts of data, in this context, sound can act as a tool for empathy.”

Parker has assembled a lineup of locally and nationally-renowned composers and musicians to explore the sounds of the body through performance in a variety of ways. Graham Reynolds will premiere his composition The Brain, which is based on UT Professor of Neuroscience Kristin Harris’s research mapping the brain. invoke quartet will debut an interactive performance with original music based on the popular game Operation. Additionally, Parker and other performers will collaborate with the Dell Medical School; several medical students will advise on select performances.

“Steve Parker has been an amazing collaborator over the past eight years of producing SoundSpace at the Blanton,” said Blanton education director Ray Williams. “From depicting the refugee experience, to celebrating the legacy of Alice Coltrane, to—now—exploring the sounds of the body, Parker’s innovative and collaborative approach helps deepen audiences’ understanding of complex and vital topics through
sound. *SoundSpace* brings together a rich slice of Austin’s artistic community and activates the museum as a site of artistic creation and inspiration.”

Highlights of *SoundSpace* BioSounds include:

**Graham Reynolds** will premiere *The Brain*, a piece he composed for the project Sound of Science, a project led by cellist Jeffrey Zeigler. *The Brain*, a composition for cello with electronic instrumentation, is the result of Reynolds’s collaboration with UT Austin neuroscientist Kristin Harris, whose research focuses on mapping the brain.

**invoke quartet** has written new music for each body part featured in the board game Operation, such as “butterflies in the stomach” and “broken heart.” In this interactive performance, audience members will play the game of Operation, and the quartet will play music in response to the audience member’s moves.

In Thomas Echols’ piece *Conventional Biofeedback*, readings of muscle tension, heart rate, and galvanic skin response will control the sonic parameters of the composition, facilitated through the use of custom software and circuitry made by the performer.

*Geräusche* by Verena Gaudy and Martín C. Rodríguez will feature a collaborative, experimental way of composing audioscapes with the human body through the collision of flesh with internally and externally generated sounds.

**Colin McIntyre** will perform a sound work that draws on his background in sculpture and visual art and his experimentation with synthesis and pipe organs. His creates sound works that occupy built spaces in an exploration of spatial acoustics.

**Jason Cella** will play live electronic music alongside a solo dance by Rosalyn Nasky. The goal of the performance is to sculpt the volume and pressure of sonic and visual space through a close relation of detailed, textural music and stark, anatomical movement.

Additional performers and collaborators include Christie Blizard, Michael Anthony Garcia, Alan Retamozo.

*SoundSpace is generously underwritten by Michael Chesser.*

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**About SoundSpace**

Heralded by the *Austin American-Statesman* as “The most successful new music event in the City,” *SoundSpace* is a dynamic concert series that brings together musicians and other creatives to connect visual and sound art. Now in its eighth year, the series demonstrates the Blanton’s commitment to nurturing collaborations that provide innovative experiences with art, inspire creativity, and support the educational mission of The University of Texas at Austin. *SoundSpace* is generously underwritten by Michael Chesser.
About Steve Parker
Steve Parker is a musician, artist, and curator who creates communal, democratic work to examine history, systems, and behavior. His projects include elaborate civic rituals for humans, animals, and machines; listening sculptures made from salvaged marching band instruments that are modeled after obsolete WWII acoustic locators; and cathartic transportation symphonies for operators of cars, pedicabs, and bicycles. He is the recipient of the 2018 Tito's Art Prize, a Fulbright Fellowship, a Harrington Fellowship, the Best of Austin Award, and the Austin Critics' Table Award.

About the Blanton Museum of Art
Founded in 1963, the Blanton Museum of Art holds the largest public collection in Central Texas with nearly 18,000 objects. Recognized for its modern and contemporary American and Latin American art, Italian Renaissance and Baroque paintings, and encyclopedic collection of prints and drawings, the Blanton offers thought provoking, visually arresting, and personally moving encounters with art.

The museum is located at the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Congress Avenue and is open Tuesday through Friday from 10–5, Saturday from 11–5, and Sunday from 1–5. Thursdays are free admission days and every third Thursday the museum is open until 9. Admission Prices: Adults $12, Kids 12 and under FREE, Seniors (65+) $10, Youth/College Students (13–21) $5. Admission is free to members, all current UT ID-holders. For additional information call (512) 471–7324 or visit blantonmuseum.org.

Image Caption: SoundSpace at the Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin