

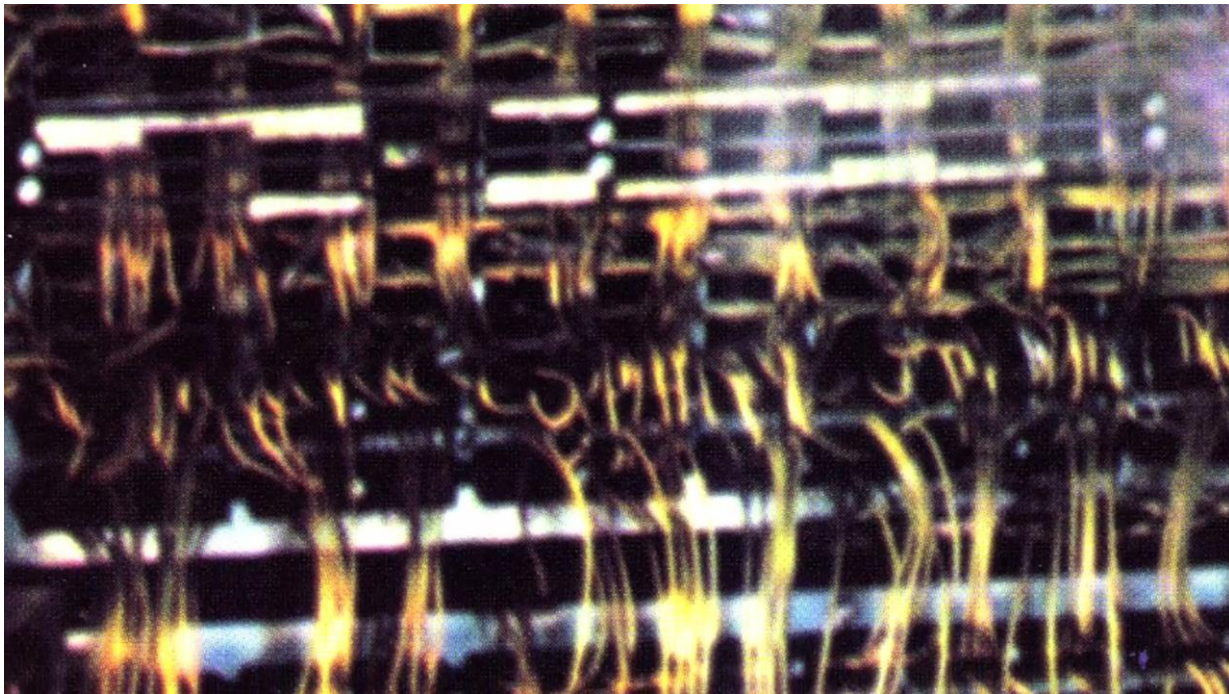
# WHITNEY

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# PRESS RELEASE



Steve Reinke, *My Name Is Karlheinz Stockhausen*, 2010. Digital video, color, sound; 6:15 min. Courtesy the artist and Video Data Bank

## **Annual Whitney ISP Exhibition, *S/N*, Goes on View May 22 at The Kitchen**

**NEW YORK, May 14, 2015**— From May 22 to June 13, 2015, the Whitney Museum of American Art Independent Study Program presents *S/N*, curated by the ISP's 2014–15 Helena Rubinstein Curatorial Fellows: Alex Fleming, Anya Komar, and Blair Murphy. The exhibition takes place at The Kitchen, 512 West 19th Street, New York.

*S/N* features works by Sonia Boyce and Ain Bailey, Cammisa Buerhaus, James Coleman, Manon de Boer, Joan La Barbara, Tracie Morris, Vanessa Place, Steve Reinke, Lis Rhodes, SCRAAATCH, Masha Tupitsyn, Ultra-red, Galina Ustvol'skaya, and Jackie Wang. The exhibition hours are Tuesday through Friday, 12 to 6 pm, and Saturday, 11am to 6 pm. Admission is free. The opening reception will take place on Friday, May 22, from 5 pm to 8 pm. The opening will include a performance of Galina Ustvol'skaya's Piano Sonata No. 6 by Cheryl Seltzer of Continuum Ensemble, which will take place promptly at 6 pm in The Kitchen theater.

*S/N*, an abbreviation for signal-to-noise ratio, refers to the relation between a message and the background noise emanating from the materials and environments it traverses. An exhibition of diverse practices including video, performance, conceptual writing, and music, *S/N* examines the material complexities of sound as a force that both allows and frustrates communication. While the works on

view employ various media, they all interrogate the historical and political contexts of audibility: how, where, and when something can be heard.

## **Public Programs**

### **Galina Ustvol'skaya's Piano Sonata No. 6 performed by Cheryl Seltzer of Continuum Ensemble**

The Kitchen theater

Friday, May 22

6 pm

Seating is limited and will be first come, first served

Composed in 1988, Piano Sonata No. 6 is one of Galina Ustvol'skaya's most challenging compositions. The score consists largely of tone clusters and demands that the performer aggressively strike the instrument, thereby speaking to the turbulence and violence at the end of the Soviet era.

### **Ultra-red**

*Introduction to Collective Listening*

The Kitchen

Saturday, May 23

12–3 pm

Sound collective Ultra-red will lead a sound walk and workshop based on its work *Protocols for the Wojnarowicz Object, or What Is the Sound of Building Up and Tearing Down?* (2012). Participants will gather at The Kitchen at 12 pm for a short introduction, followed by a sound walk down the west side of Manhattan. After the sound walk, participants will return to The Kitchen for a discussion of their experiences during the walk.

### **SCRAAATCH**

*SCRAAATCH No. 9*

The Kitchen

Friday, June 5

4–6 pm

SCRAAATCH performs *SCRAAATCH No. 9*, part of a series of collaborative performance works. Combining live sound processing and performative notation, the duo develops an intricate physical and aural choreography, exploring the difficulties of mediated communication and exchange.

### **Avital Ronell, Vanessa Place, Kyoo Lee**

*Last—Words?*

Whitney Museum of American Art

Saturday, June 6

6:30–8:30 pm

What does it mean to speak of one's own death? And how does one hear what is spoken? Avital Ronell, professor of German, Comparative Literature, and English at NYU, will address the death penalty and the recorded speech of executed prisoners. Artist and criminal defense attorney Vanessa Place will perform *Botched Execution* (2015), an extension of her *Last Words* (2014–ongoing). Included in the exhibition, *Last Words* is a recording of the artist's voice reading the last statements of inmates executed in Texas since 1982. Kyoo Lee, philosopher, theorist, and professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY, will respond and moderate the conversation.

### **Jay Sanders & Charles Bernstein in Conversation**

The Kitchen

Thursday, June 11

6–8 pm

Whitney Museum curator Jay Sanders and poet Charles Bernstein will discuss their work in, on, and around sound, performance, installation, dance, poetry, theater, poetics, curating, editing, essay writing, and teaching. They will also reflect on their previous collaboration curating the 2001 exhibition [Poetry Plastique](#) at the Marianne Boesky Gallery.

### **Exhibition Support**

This exhibition is a collaboration between the Whitney Museum of American Art Independent Study Program and The Kitchen. Curatorial Participants of the ISP are designated as Helena Rubinstein Fellows in recognition of the long standing support of the Helena Rubinstein Foundation. Support for the Independent Study Program is provided by Margaret Morgan and Wesley Phoa, The Capital Group Charitable Foundation, The New York Community Trust, and the Whitney Contemporaries through their annual Art Party Benefit. Endowment support is provided by Joanne Leonhardt Cassullo, the Dorothea L. Leonhardt Fund of the Communities Foundation of Texas, the Dorothea L. Leonhardt Foundation and the Helena Rubinstein Foundation.

### **About the Whitney**

The Whitney Museum of American Art, founded in 1930 by the artist and philanthropist Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney (1875–1942), houses the foremost collection of American art from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Mrs. Whitney, an early and ardent supporter of modern American art, nurtured groundbreaking artists at a time when audiences were still largely preoccupied with the Old Masters. From her vision arose the Whitney Museum of American Art, which has been championing the most innovative art of the United States for more than eighty years. The core of the Whitney's mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit American art of our time and serve a wide variety of audiences in celebration of the complexity and diversity of art and culture in the United States. Through this mission and a steadfast commitment to artists themselves, the Whitney has long been a powerful force in support of modern and contemporary art and continues to help define what is innovative and influential in American art today.

### **Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art**

<i>America Is Hard to See</i>	Through Sept 27, 2015
<i>Archibald Motley: Jazz Age Modernist</i>	Oct 2, 2015–Jan 17, 2016
<i>Jared Madere</i>	Oct 16, 2015–Jan 3, 2016
<i>Frank Stella</i>	Oct 30, 2015–Feb 7, 2016
<i>Rachel Rose</i>	Oct 30, 2015–Feb 7, 2016
<i>The Westreich/Wagner Collection</i>	Nov 20, 2015–Mar 6, 2016
<i>Laura Poitras</i>	Feb 5–May 15, 2016
<i>In Full Swing: The Art of Stuart Davis</i>	Summer/Fall 2016
<i>Carmen Herrera</i>	Fall 2016
<i>Sophia Al-Maria</i>	Summer 2016
<i>David Wojnarowicz</i>	Fall 2016/Winter 2017
<i>Whitney Biennial</i>	Spring 2017

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