



CENTRE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN LA SYNAGOGUE DE DELME



Press release

SCHIZOPHONIA

PREVIEW FRIDAY 25 OCTOBER 6PM
CONCERT OF THE CHICAGO BOYS 7PM

EXHIBITION 26.10.2013 - 16.02.2014

WITH : LAWRENCE ABU HAMDAN, LATIFA ECHAKHCH, SHARON HAYES, HIWA K,
FRANCK LEIBOVICI, EILEEN SIMPSON & BEN WHITE (OPEN MUSIC ARCHIVE),
ADRIAN PIPER, THE OTOLITH GROUP

GUEST CURATORS : ANNA COLIN AND SAM THORNE

Schizophrenia explores the histories of music, sound and speech as reinterpreted and written by artists. From Latifa Echakhch's geopolitical scores and Adrian Piper's funk lessons, to a concert by a group that Hiwa K has assembled in Delme, the exhibition presents works that sketch diverse aural genealogies. Many of these artists share an interest in sonic archives; they collect, revive and generate recordings—whether unconventional, popular, politicised or dormant—and examine the ways in which these are circulated.

The title of the exhibition borrows a term coined by the Canadian composer and theorist R. Murray Schafer to describe “the split between an original sound and its electroacoustical transmission or reproduction”. In his book *The New Soundscape* (1969), Schafer explains that schizophrenia “simultaneously implicates matters of music, money, geography, time, race and social class.” He also mentions that he wanted to use a “nervous word” deliberately linked to schizophrenia: “I wanted it to convey the same sense of aberration and drama”. If sounds, music and voices are timeless travellers, how do different political, cultural and social contexts change the way people hear and receive them? And, forty years after *The New Soundscape*, what does Schafer's ‘aberration’ mean today?

Two new works produced specifically for the exhibition explore the peregrinations of music, alongside questions of authorship and composition. Eileen Simpson and Ben White (who work together as Open Music Archive) question the associations between traditional ethnomusicology and oral histories in the digital age. The duo have used Harry Smith's three-volume *Anthology of American Folk Music* (1952) as a source from which to develop a taxonomy of song variations, versions and remixes. By tracing the origins and subsequent adaptations of the songs compiled by Smith, the artists' video installation investigates the relationship between intellectual property and folk tradition, which is typically oral and has no single author.

Continuing his research into “low-intensity conflicts”, and on the occasion of a new instalment of his ongoing “mini-opera for non musicians”, Franck Leibovici presents an investigation into the propaganda chants generated by recent conflicts. Though these materials are often overlooked, they throw light on the everyday reality of these complex situations. Usually circulating in the form of YouTube videos, the chants have a relatively short lifespan. By using the format of jazz-standard anthologies (such as the *Real Book*), Leibovici transforms vagrant MP3s into sheet music.

Many of the other works in *Schizophrenia* trace the connections between representation and subjugation; voicing and silencing; lost and dispersed archives; fragile musical heritages and the ethics of field recording. These include The Otolith Group's *People to Be Resembling* (2012), a video-essay that opens up the sonic geography of the free-jazz trio Codona's 1978 debut album.

In the form of a collection, Sharon Hayes's *An Ear to the Sounds of Our History* (2011) composes a visual history of activist speech from political spoken-word album covers that were produced in the United States and beyond between 1948 and 1984. Elsewhere, Lawrence Abu Hamdan's 'voice maps', titled *Conflicted Phonemes* (2012), are based on methods used by European immigration departments so as to analyse a person's accent to ascertain their eligibility for asylum.

Schizophonia will open with a concert by the Chicago Boys, a covers band and study group assembled by Hiwa K in Delme with local musicians and non-musicians, during the course of a four-week residency.

ANNA COLIN & SAM THORNE

Anna Colin is an independent curator and co-director of Open School East. Previously, she was associate director of Bétonsalon – Centre for art and research, Paris (2011-12) and curator at Gasworks, London (2007-10).

Sam Thorne is associate editor of *frieze* magazine, a visiting tutor at the Royal College of Art, London, and a co-founder of Open School East, a free-to-attend study programme and communal space that opens in East London in September 2013.

EXHIBITION-RELATED EVENTS

RESIDENCY IN DELME BY THE ARTIST HIWA K > OCTOBER

During his residency, artist Hiwa K will reconstitute a band called The Chicago Boys with participants met locally.

THE CHICAGO BOYS PUBLIC REHEARSALS > OCTOBER

The rehearsals of The Chicago Boys will be open to the public for participation twice a week in the *Gue(ho)st House*. The concert will take place on the opening night at 7pm.

GUIDED TOUR WITH MARIE COZETTE, DIRECTOR OF THE ART CENTRE > SUNDAY 26 JANUARY 4PM

Free entrance.

PRACTICAL DETAILS

Wednesday-Saturday: 2-6pm, Sunday: 11am-6pm.
Free entrance.

Guided Tour every Sunday at 4pm.

Closed from 21 December to 3rd January.

LOCATION

Centre d'art contemporain la synagogue de Delme
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Visuals available on request.

Press kit downloadable on:

www.cac-synagoguedelme.org/presse

ACCES

FROM PARIS (by train 90 mins):

TGV Est, get off at Metz or Nancy

FROM METZ (by car, 30 mins):

D955, formerly route de Strasbourg

FROM NANCY (by car, 30 mins):

N74 towards Château-Salins then D955
towards Metz

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS / PARTNERS

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La synagogue de Delme Centre for Contemporary Art is a member of DCA-Association pour le Développement des Centres d'Art and LORA-Lorraine Réseau Art Contemporain.



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Image : Sharon Hayes, *An Ear to the Sounds of Our History* (2011)