

Artists

Adriana Knouf Ailbhe Nic Oireachtaigh Albert Tarrats Alexandra Campbell Anastasia A. Khodyreva Andreas Kuhne Annika Kappner Anouk van Wijk Anthea Caddy Arie Altena aya **Boris Shershenkov** Catalina Reves Ceara lone Charles Rouleau **Charmaine** Chua Cocky Eek Damian Borovsky **David Smeulders** Emme Eric La Casa Faiza Ahmad Khan Frank Bloem Fred Carter Ghenwa noiré **Gizem Senturk** Görkem Arıkan Hannah Rowan Hannah Tollefson Harpo 't Hart Ifor Duncan

Inne Eysermans **Julia Aionesi** Iva Jankovic Jac Common Jacob Bolton Jeff Diamanti Jildou Feenstra Johan Haldna Karen Bakker Katy Lewis Hood Kees van Zelst Kristina Andersen Lance Gapuz Laoyan Liew Niyomkarn Lila Bullen-Smith Lucia Dove Marcel Weber / MFO Marcin Pietruszewski Mariette Groot Marit Mihklepp Megan Hadfield Michaela Büsse Minji Kim Miriam Matthiessen Miriam Sentler Nessim Nico Bes Nile Davies Pete Edwards Philip Vermeulen Pim Sem Benjamin / Snufkin

Rita Wong Roc Jiménez de Cisneros S280F Sandipan Nath Sasha Engelmann Soft Break Sophie Dyer Stefanie Hessler Susan Schuppli Tarek Atoui Therese Keogh **Tiago** Pina Tomoko Sauvage Toni Brell Velma Spell Verena Fisch Yara Said Yen Tech Yeon Sung Zgjim Elsahani

> Cover: Love Numbers, Anthea Caddy and Marcin Pietruszewski, Sonic Acts co-commission with Venice Music Biennale 2023, Forte Marghera. Photo by Andrea Avezzu. This page: La Notte di Sonic Acts, Venice Music Biennale 2023. Photo by Andrea Avezzu.

Introduction

In 2023, Sonic Acts continued to adapt to post-pandemic challenges, consolidating its focus on artistic development, research, and international collaboration. Although the year saw fewer public events due to the rescheduling of activities and rising operational costs, Sonic Acts took significant strides in talent development and the production of new works. Central to this were the *Overexposed* and *Underexposed* residency and mentoring programs, which supported a range of emerging and established artists in the creation of groundbreaking projects.

Throughout the year, Sonic Acts worked on the production of 17 commissioned works with 19 artists, many of which premiered at the 2024 biennial. Collaborations such as *Re-Imagine Europe* and *Spatial Sound Platform* allowed for the international development of new audiovisual installations, experimental documentaries, and public space projects.

In addition, Sonic Acts launched the 4-year European coproduction and distribution project *New Perspectives* for *Action* (2023–2027) with 14 interdisciplinary art organisations and initiated two archive projects that reactivated its digital archives. The year also saw a continuation of Sonic Acts' commitment to education and knowledge-sharing through a series of workshops and the successful completion of the international *Sound Experiments* project focused on young audiences.

Sonic Acts collaborated on several international projects, including presentation of two *Vertical Cinema* films at the Academy of Motion Pictures Museum, in Los Angeles and a major co-production for the Venice Music Biennale 2023. The *Ecoes* magazine remained a vital platform for sharing research, reflections, and artistic works, extending its reach to institutions worldwide.

Looking back, Sonic Acts were able to showcase many unique and surprising works, and made significant progress in talent development and the creation of new works. In 2023, Sonic Acts worked with 94 creators and researchers from the Netherlands and abroad, supporting their research, developing new work, and presenting, publishing, and distributing their work.

Commisioned Works and Co-productions

Commissioning new work and supporting creators remains a core focus for Sonic Acts. In 2023, 19 artists were engaged to develop 17 commissioned works, many of which premiered at the 2024 Sonic Acts Biennial.

The selected artists, ranging from emerging talents to established creators, were chosen for their thematic relevance and potential impact on the field.



Love Numbers, Anthea Caddy and Marcin Pietruszewski, Sonic Acts co-commission with Venice Music Biennale 2023, Forte Marghera. Photo by Andrea Avezzù.

LOVE NUMBERS Anthea Caddy and Marcin Pietruszewski

This work for cello, synthetic sound, and parabolic speakers examines the opposing thermal and gravitational forces of the sun and moon on earth's atmosphere. Inspired by parameters introduced by mathematician Augustus Love in 1909, it premiered at Venice Music Biennale 2023 in Venice and was developed in collaboration with the Venice Biennale.

Commissioned works for Sonic Acts Biennial

With the Sonic Acts Biennial scheduled for early 2024, a wide array of new works was commissioned to premiere at the biennial.



SEARCHING FOR REFLECTIONS IN THE TOXIC FIELD OF PLENTY Lukas Marxt

After seven years of research into the area of Salton Sea, a site shaped by human interventions such as colonisation, nuclear tests, and environmental disasters, Marxt developed an array of works: video installations, sculptures, and elements such as dummy bombs referencing the 'Fat Man' atomic bomb.



ATER TUMTI Annika Kappner

Part of Kappner's *Deep Planetary Sensing* project, this work explores future technologies through immersive video installations and workshops, blending alchemy, gaming, and sci-fi to foster ecological awareness.



DIPTYCH & TELESCOPIC AULOS Sarah Davachi & Lukas de Clerck

A dual commission for a musical composition and the design of the telescopic aulos, an instrument inspired by ancient Greek double-pipes. The composition explores duality through the interaction between viola and aulos, with microtonality navigating consonance and dissonance.





SHIFTED IN DREAMS – REDREAMED Kassel Jaeger and Eléonore Huisse

A re-composition of Jaeger's *Shifted in Dreams* album, transforming the original sounds into new forms. The accompanying film by Huisse blends sleepwalking imagery with Jaeger's live performance.

DISTORTION PRODUCT LATTICE (FOKKER QDTS WAVEPACKETS) Marcin Pietruszewski

Written for the microtonal Fokker organ located in Muziekgebouw, this piece combines organ sounds, digital synthesis, and light choreography to create complex auditory modulations. Produced in collaboration with Stichting Huygens-Fokker.



CADÁVER EXQUISITO #4, Hugo Esquinca and Russell Haswell, Sonic Acts Biennial 2024. Photo by Pierre Zylstra.



CADÁVER EXQUISITO #4 Hugo Esquinca and Russell Haswell

A site-specific, multisensory, kinetic environment created for the loading bay of Muziekgebouw, combining sound and space in a rarely used industrial setting.

Distortion Product Lattice, Marcin Pietruszewski, Muziekgebouw, Sonic Acts Biennial 2024. Photo by Pierre Zylstra.

MOVING ICE Susan Schuppli and Faiza Ahmad Khan

This documentary explores the transformation of ice from natural resource to commodity, tracing its historical exploitation during the colonial era. It highlights the forgotten 'ice trade', revealing how natural resources were economically exploited.



Moving Ice, Susan Schuppli and Faiza Ahmad Kahn, Eye Filmmuseum, Sonic Acts Biennial 2024. Photo © Pieter Kers.

SPATIAL SOUND DESIGN AND WARPING SPATIAL NARRATIVES Theresa Baumgartner

A commission resulting in a workshop focused on creating spatial designs for live performances and DJ sets. Participants conceptualised designs for three club nights during Sonic Acts Biennale 2024.



Commissioned works for Spatial Sound Platform

In 2023, Sonic Acts launched the long-term project, *Spatial Sound Platform*, commissioning several new works that explore the possibilities of spatial audio.



EMBEDDED/EMBODIED Farzané and Arash Akbari

This interactive project uses spatial audio and point-cloud captures to explore AI's learning processes. The first iteration, presented at Zone2Source, uses recordings from Amstelpark as input.

THE WALL Geneva Skeen

This composition continues Skeen's exploration of powerful mountain winds, capturing the sound of the Alpine föhn wind.

KOLO Anna Khvyl

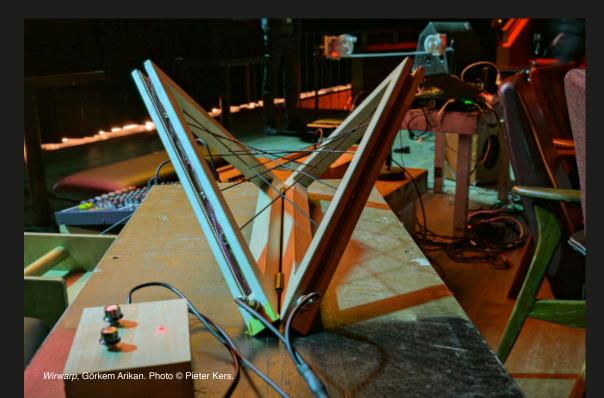
KOLO uses multichannel sound, with musical gestures flowing in a circle, intertwining and colliding like a children's game, it invites listeners to follow the sound's paths in an auditory playground.

KARVAGRAFFITI SIELLÄ KELOPUUN KESKIRUUMIIN PAIKKEILLA Atte Elias Kantonen

This composition captures the tactile act of embracing a tree, with 'kelo' referring to a dead pine tree that stands upright for centuries, providing habitat for organisms.







Commissioned works for Re-imagining Michel Waisvisz

In light of the heritage project about pioneering sound artist Michel Waisisz (1949–2008) several reinterpretations or re-edits of Waisvisz' DIY instruments were commissioned.

WIRWARP Görken Arıkan

Inspired by Waisvisz' *Belly Web* instrument, *Wirwarp* uses conductive rubber sensors to create a touch-sensitive surface for sonic exploration. Players manipulate cord tension and adjust the frame to interact with sound.

AUDIOPULLER Boris Shershenkov

Inspired by Waisvisz's *TapePuller*, *AudioPuller* is an experimental instrument that uses analog tape loops and hand gestures for sonic manipulation. It has a modular structure, adaptable for various contexts.



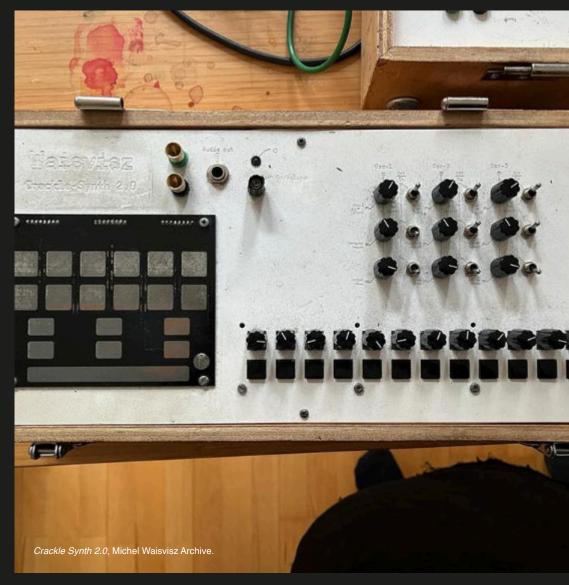
Restored and Re-edited Crackle Speakers, Kristina Andersen. Photo by Amie Galbraith.

RESTORED AND RE-EDITED CRACKLE SPEAKERS Kristina Andersen

In collaboration with emeritus engineers Nico Bes and Kees van Zelst, Kristina Andersen restored five *Crackle Speakers* from the archive, uncovering their long and complex history of modifications.

RE-EDITED CRACKLE SYNTH Kristina Andersen

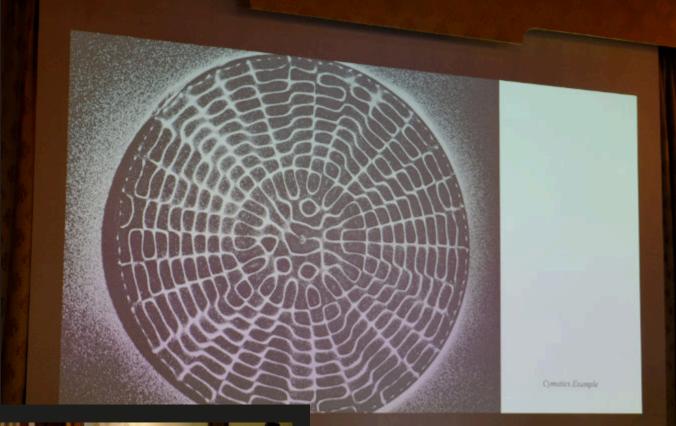
Kristina Andersen collaborated with synthesiser engineer Pete Edwards to build a new version of Waisvisz' iconic *Crackle Synth*.

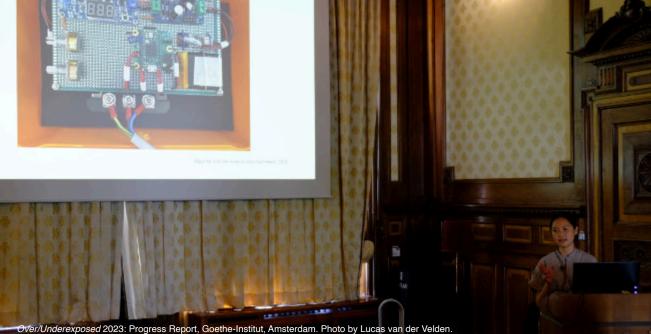


Residencies

OVEREXPOSED

Minji Kim was selected for the *Overexposed* residency program. This year, the program was part of an international multi-year collaboration, *The Lives of Deltas* project, in partnership with the Utrecht University Centre for Global Challenges (UGlobe). The residency provided a fully-funded opportunity for a Netherlands-based artist to expand their practice, develop new creative methodologies, and work on artistic assignments alongside a small group of MA students in Utrecht on the theme of Pollution/ Pollination.





'I consider this residency as one of the most significant points in my career, where I had the opportunity to collaborate with multidisciplinary experts and explore my artistic and research topic from a broad view.'

Minji Kim, resident 2023.

RÀDIO WEB MACBA WORKING GROUP RESIDENCY AT WILLEM TWEE STUDIOS

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Three members of the Ràdio Web MACBA Working Group – Roc Jiménez de Cisneros, Tiago Pina, and Albert Tarrats – participated in a residency at Willem Twee Studios in 's-Hertogenbosch, co-produced with Sonic Acts. They worked with vintage synthesisers from the 70s and 80s to create innovative 'library music' for future Ràdio Web MACBA podcasts, focusing on dialogue, challenging traditional production methods, and fostering collaboration with the Willem Twee Studios team.

RE-IMAGINING MICHEL WAISVISZ RESIDENCY

Property in

Throughout 2023, several work sessions focused on exploring the heritage of Michel Waisvisz, a pioneer in electronic art. Artist Tarek Atoui and Kristina Andersen, the Waisvisz archive's curator, collaborated in an archival residency to study various archives, including Waisvisz' personal collection and the Sonic Acts archive, preparing for a presentation at the 2024 Sonic Acts Biennial.

> -*imagining Michel Waisvisz* Residency, Tarek Atoui and Kristina Andersen, 2023, Amsterdam. Photo by Amie Galbraith.



Talent Development

Sonic Acts further developed the Underexposed mentoring program, which remains in high demand among newly graduated artists. Through this program, Sonic Acts guides emerging creators in professionalising their artistic work and research. In 2023, a joint final presentation was organised, where mentees showcased their results and received feedback from our team and invited guests. Participants were Yeon Sung, who developed a project proposal on the toxic particles in Saharan dust, Sandipan Nath who explored biomineralization as a poetic model, and Lance Laoyan who developed a project investigating the polluted waters around Ruigoord.

'At art school, no one prepared us for the harsh realities artists face postgraduation. My Sonic Acts mentorship illuminated this path for me.'



Public programs, presentations, screenings

SOUNDSWEIRD Tempel, Amsterdam, 16 February

Soundsweird is an innovative educational platform for non-traditional music education aimed at youth aged 13 to 20. The event featured workshops by Yara Said and Andreas Kühne and discussions on new pedagogical methods, with youth workers and educators exploring creative approaches to sampling, field recordings, and sound editing.

Visit Soundsweird Website



MARITIME FRICTIONS Ruigoord, Amsterdam, 19 May

Maritime Frictions, in collaboration with FieldARTS, presented lectures, performances, and soundwalks exploring the Petroleumhaven and its artistic and critical perspectives. With artists Embassy of the North Sea (Frank Bloem and Harpo 't Hart), Lance Laoyan, Fred Carter, Charmaine Chua, Liquid Time (Jacob Bolton and Miriam Matthiessen), Michaela Büsse, Velma Spell and Nessim.



Barrels of palm oil and nuts imported from Indonesia at the Port of Liverpool, 1897 (Image: Honry Bedford Lemere)

Maritime Frictions, Keynote lecture, Charmaine Chua. Photo © Pieter Kers.





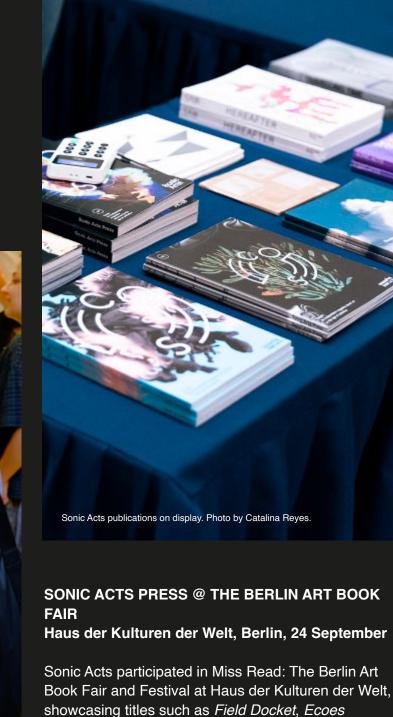


Maritime Frictions, Keynote lecture, Charmaine Chua. Photo © Pieter Kers.

ECOES #5 LAUNCH San Seriffe, Amsterdam, 13 July

The launch of the fifth issue of *Ecoes* included a presentation by Alice Johnston Rougeaux on cloud observation and a sound and poetry performance by Annika Kappner, followed by discussions led by Hannah Pezzack.





magazine, and Hereafter, alongside 340 exhibitors

from 52 countries.

SONIC ACTS PRESS @ DRUK BOOKFAIR Paradiso, Amsterdam, 3 December

At the DRUK book fair in Paradiso, Sonic Acts showcased publications like *Ecoes*, *The Dark* Universe, and Hereafter, among over 100 publishers and artists from the Netherlands and Belgium.

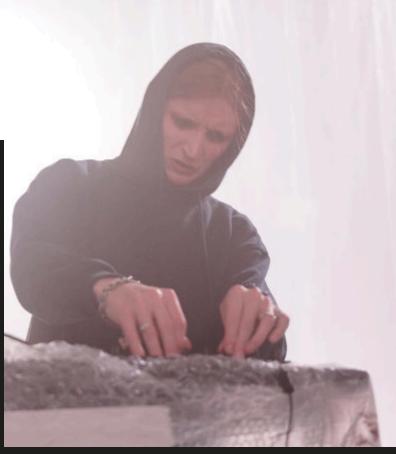


Ecoes 5 magazine launch, San Serriffe, 2023. Photo by Lucas van der Velden.

LOVE NUMBERS Biennale Musica, Forte Marghera, Venice, 16 October

Anthea Caddy and Marcin Pietruszewski's installation *Love Numbers* was exhibited at the Music Biennale in Venice at Forte Marghera.





LA NOTTE DI SONIC ACTS Biennale Musica, Teatro alle Tese, Venice, 20 October

For the Music Biennale in Venice, Sonic Acts curated a sound (club) programme featuring performances by Aya x MFO, Emme, S280F, Yen Tech, and DJ sets, with commissioned immersive visuals by Theresa Baumgartner.

VERTICAL CINEMA: SHIFTING PERSPECTIVES Academy of Motion Pictures Museum, Los Angeles 12 November 2023 till 4 Augustus 2024

Sonic Acts contributed two productions to the *Shifting Perspectives* exhibition at the Academy of Motion Pictures Museum in Los Angeles, showcasing 25 works exploring the possibilities of the vertical screen, including Joost Rekveld's #43 and HC Gilje's *rift*.

Visit Academy of Motion Pictures Museum website

THE HACKED ORCHESTRA Muziekgebouw, Amsterdam, 12 November

A collaboration with Hackers & Designers, SoundLAB, and Muziekgebouw, *The Hacked Orchestra* featured a presentation by Ghenwa noiré and Görkem Arıkan, followed by an open jam session with SoundLAB's electroacoustic instruments.

Workshops

In 2023, Sonic Acts organised an educational program exploring aspects of its multi-year research theme and artistic research methods, led primarily by artists. The workshops, aimed at diverse groups including artists, students, researchers, activists, programmers, children, and curious audiences, focused on developing and sharing knowledge.

LISTENING TO SAMPLING Yara Said and Zgjim Elshani Salwa Foundation, 20 January

Developed by artists Yara Said and Zgjim Elshani, *Listening to Sampling* explored electronic music sampling techniques within the Erasmus+ project Sound Experiments, in collaboration with IMC Weekendschool and Salwa Foundation.





STARS IN THEIR EYES Sasha Engelmann, Sophie Dyer, Cocky Eek & Adriana Knouf Het lage Noorden, 13 to 17 November

open-weather (led by Sophie Dyer and Sasha Engelmann) and artist-scientist Adriana Knouf, along with guest teacher Cocky Eek, collaborated with Sonic Acts and the ArtScience Interfaculty to lead DIY satellite and field research courses at Het Lage Noorden in Marrum, focusing on the dark skies of the Wadden area and their impact on natural rhythms.



Spatial Sound Platform

In 2023, Sonic Acts launched the *Spatial Sound Platform*, a project with two main goals: to integrate spatial sound technologies into a complete workflow (including production, streaming, archiving, and online publication) and to develop an online platform that preserves the immersive quality of spatial sound.

To support the project, Sonic Acts established a space for archival research, residencies, and spatial work production, along with a program for commissioned works and an educational track on spatial sound. Additionally, a recording and streaming kit was created, and an online platform now offers commissioned works, archival pieces, and live performances in spatial audio.

Visit *Spatial Sound Platform* <u>Website</u> <u>Listen</u> to the *Spatial Sound Platform*

Publishing Sonic Acts Press

Ecoes magazine once again provided a platform to spotlight the artists Sonic Acts works with and the outcomes of its research and activities. It also enabled Sonic Acts to sustain the gained knowledge and insights. *Ecoes*, subtitled 'Art in the Age of Pollution', contains commissioned essays, specially made interviews with artists, filmmakers, musicians, activists, and researchers, extensive visuals and documentation of research trajectories.





ECOES # 5

This collection explores the theme of water in various forms. Topics include personal reflections on relationships with water, curatorial work on oceanic themes, and fascination with water bubbles and clocks. Other works examine immersive installations that blur sensory boundaries, sound recordings in international ports, and the environmental impact of dredging near Australia's largest coal export port. Sonic Acts' magazine *Ecoes* expands on these themes, focusing on climate crisis perspectives and art's role in rethinking human-nonhuman interactions amidst ecological challenges.

With contributions from Alice Johnston Rougeaux, Anastasia (A) Khodyreva, Annika Kappner, Arie Altena, Brackish Collective, Éric La Casa, Hannah Pezzack, Hannah Rowan, Jac Common, Karen Bakker, Katy Lewis Hood, Lucia Dove, Maud Seuntjens, Philip Vermeulen, Rita Wong, Stefanie Hessler, Tarek Atoui, Therese Keogh, and Tomoko Sauvage.

FIELD DOCKET

In July 2022, the first *FieldARTS* residency gathered artists and researchers to conduct collaborative fieldwork across Amsterdam's port, the IJmuiden estuary, and Texel Island, engaging with experts from diverse fields. The resulting *FieldARTS Field Docket* captures this immersive research with thirty entries – provisional, dialogic, and milieu-sensitive – exploring the complex terrains and currents of these environments, aiming to foster a deeper, critical engagement with often-overlooked fields central to ongoing cultural transitions.

With contributions from Iulia Aionesi, Jacob Bolton, Damian Borovsky, Michaela Büsse, Alexandra Campbell, Fred Carter, Nile Davies, Jeff Diamanti, Ifor Duncan, Verena Fisch, Johan Haldna, Alice Johnston Rougeaux, Katy Lewis Hood, Ceara Ione, Lance Gapuz Laoyan, Miriam Matthiessen, Marit Mihklepp, Charles Rouleau, Gizem Senturk, Miriam Sentler, Hannah Tollefson, Anouk van Wijk.

MITAINERS

Releases

LIVE AT SONIC ACTS – AILBHE NIC OIREACHTAIGH

Ailbhe Nic Oireachtaigh released her digital album on Bandcamp, featuring four tracks recorded during her live performance at the Sonic Acts Biennale 2022.

Radio & Podcasts

OVEREXPOSED PODCASTS

In collaboration with JaJaJaNeeNeeNee, two *Overexposed* podcasts were produced.

2023 *Overexposed* resident Minji Kim discussed the relationship between human life and the environment, the sound of wind, and using sound technologies to track decay.

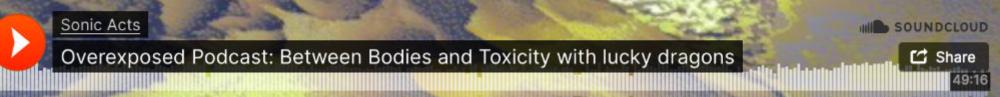
2022 residents Lucky Dragons talked with Arif Kornweitz about collaborative networks, hydrofeminism, and experiences with crip-time during cancer treatment, in relation to their commissioned work presented at the Sonic Acts Biennale 2022 in Amstelpark.

<u>Listen</u> to Minji Kim <u>Listen</u> to Lucky Dragons



Overexposed Podcast

JA JA JA NEE NEE NEE



Privacy policy

19 MAY 2023 16:00 - 00:00 RUIGOORD

SONIC ACTS × FIELDARTS

MARITIME FRICTIONS PODCASTS

During the *Maritime Frictions* event at Ruigoord on May 19, all talks were recorded and published as podcasts on major podcast platforms. These include talks by Frank Bloem and Harpo 't Hart (Embassy of the North Sea), Jacob Bolton and Miriam Matthiessen (Liquid Time), and Fred Carter.

<u>Listen</u> to Embassy of the North Sea <u>Listen</u> to Liquid Time <u>Listen</u> to Fred Carter



CHARMAINE CHUA INTERVIEW

Following her keynote talk, Charmaine Chua's interview with Jacob Bolton and Miriam Matthiessen at *Maritime Frictions* – which delves into the logistics revolution, social unrest in ports, and Chua's research practice – is available to watch on the Sonic Acts YouTube channel.

Watch the interview here



International Collaborations

In addition to several presentations in the Netherlands, Sonic Acts realised two major international presentations. One was participation in the *Shifting Perspectives* exhibition at the Academy Museum in Los Angeles with two *Vertical Cinema* films, and the other was a large co-production exhibited at the Music Biennale 2023 in Venice, where Sonic Acts was also presented a *Night Air*-inspired program, *La notte di Sonic Acts*, showcasing a lot of young talent.

Ràdio Web MACBA Working Group Residency at Willem Twee Studios. Photo by Tiago Pina.

Facts & Figures

6,042 visitors total



40,745 social media followers

#



77,850 views & listens

5,980

PROD .

newsletter subscribers

Funders & Partners

Sonic Acts received support in 2023 from: Creative Industries Fund NL, Amsterdam Fund for the Arts, Mondriaan Fund, Province of North Holland, Netherlands Film Fund, Performing Arts Fund NL, Creative Europe, Erasmus+, Culture Desk DigitALL, Hartwig Art Foundation, Fonds 21, Culture Fund, Flanders State of the Art, Austrian Federal Ministry of Arts and Culture (BMKÖS), Arts Foundation NRW, and Institut Français.

Sonic Acts' activities were made possible through collaborations with a wide range of national and international cultural, educational, technical, and facilitating partners: A4, Ableton, Academy of Motion Pictures Museum, Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis, Antenne Books, BeamSystems, BEK, Borealis Festival, De Appel, de Bijloke, Disruption Network Lab, Elevate Festival, Environmental Humanities UvA, Field Station Friesland, FieldARTS, Forte Marghera, Galerie Khoshbakht, Goethe-Institut, Hackers & Designers, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Het Hem, Het Lage Noorden, Nieuwe Instituut, Idea Books, INA GRM, JaJaJaNeeNeeNee, KONTEJNER, Kontrapunkt, La Biennale di Venezia, Michel Waisvisz Archive, Muziekgebouw, Netherlands Institute for Cultural Analysis, OT301, Paradiso, Parco d'Arte Vivente, Partyzaan, Radio Web MACBA, ReCNTR - Leiden University, Ruigoord, RUPERT, SALWA, San Seriffe, Semibreve, Singelkerk, SoundLAB, Spatial Media Laboratories, Stack Magazines, Stichting de Vrolijkheid Almere, Huygens-Fokker Foundation, IMC Weekendschool Foundation, Studio405, STUK, Teatro alle Tese, Tempel, The Berlin Art Book Fair and Festival, Universidade Eduardo Mondlane, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Utrecht University, University of Hong Kong, WG Theatertechniek, Willem Twee Studios, Zone2Source.



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