

**DIVERSE
WORKS**

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DiverseWorks presents *SonicWorks*
Opening Reception: Friday, January 10, 2014, 7 – 9 pm
On View: January 11 – March 1, 2014**

a multi-platform exhibition exploring experimental sound art and practice



The Art Guys, *Wrap Music*, 1992
Photo by John A. Wilson from performance at SonicWorks Festival, DiverseWorks, 1992

(Houston, TX, January 2, 2014) – DiverseWorks, Houston's multidisciplinary arts space, presents ***SonicWorks***, on view **January 11 – March 1, 2014**, with an opening reception on **Friday, January 10, 7 – 9 pm**.

SonicWorks is a multi-platform exhibition that explores the medium and material of sound. Featuring national and international contemporary artists who utilize a variety of materials from the conventional to the absurd, *SonicWorks* includes discrete sound works, sculptural intervention and multi-media installations, as well as live performances by a variety of contemporary artists and musicians. The exhibition has two distinct parts: one portion of the exhibition is devoted to presenting sound installations and interactive pieces, along with ephemera from DiverseWorks' archives related to previous explorations of sound as art; the second is devoted to weekly live performances as part of the DiverseWorks on Wednesdays series. Ephemera and other documentation from each performance will remain on view, creating an accumulative exhibition that encourages repeat visitors.

Artists included in *SonicWorks* are **The Art Guys** (Houston), **Anthea Behm** and **Lisa Harris** (Australia/Houston), **Bonnie Barnett** (Los Angeles), **Melissa Dubbin & Aaron S. Davidson** (New York City/Paris), David Dove (Houston), **Christine Sun Kim** (New York City), **Chris Kubick & Anne Walsh** (San Francisco Bay Area), **Ladyband** featuring **Regina Agu** and **Sandy Ewen** (Houston), **Rebecca Novak** (Houston), **Pauline Oliveros** (New York), **Ronny Quevedo** (New York/Houston) and **Autumn Knight** (Houston), **Marina Rosenfeld** (Los Angeles/New York City), **Damon Smith** (Houston), **Sergei Tcherepnin** (Florence/New York City), and **Mark Tribe** (New York City), among others.

In addition to presenting current sound works by the artists listed above, this exhibition also considers how DiverseWorks, an early and active commissioner of sonic ideas, has influenced the creation and reception of experimental sound in Houston and the region. In 1986 Houston hosted New Music America, presented by The Houston Festival Foundation, Inc. and DiverseWorks was the Official Festival Headquarters. The festival marked a significant historic event for Houston and DiverseWorks, as many notable artists including John Cage, Stelarc, and Sonic Youth presented works in traditional concert halls and performance venues as well on the streets, on commercial flights into Houston, and at the Astrodome.

For *SonicWorks*, DiverseWorks will present archival ephemera and recordings from the festival, and restage a number of performances, including **Bonnie Barnett's** *Under Houston Humming*, a live participatory vocal event in Houston's underground pedestrian tunnel system. DiverseWorks is partnering with Rice University to stage an additional Hum event in James Turrell's *Twilight Epiphany* skyspace on campus. Barnett has presented Hum performances for a number of years and in various locations across the country, including the Fort Mason center in San Francisco, MacArther Park in Los Angeles, and on a flight from San Francisco to Houston.

On Saturday, February 15, musician and Nameless Sound founder and director **David Dove**, and a number of collaborators will present a day-long concert in DiverseWorks' gallery featuring the works of **Pauline Oliveros**, accordionist, composer, experimental sound pioneer, founder of New Music America, and Houston native. Pieces will be performed without pauses or intermissions and audience members are encouraged to come and go freely throughout the day. Performers will include: Paula Anne Anicete, Abel Cisneros, Denis Cisneros, Chris Cogburn, David Dove, Sandy Ewen, David Feil, Sonia Flores, Lucas Gorham, Lisa Harris, Jason Jackson, Rebecca Novak, Ivette Roman-Roberto, Alauna Rubin, Damon Smith, Kurt Stallmann, Jawwaad Taylor, Hsin-Jung Tsai, and Ronnie Yates. This event celebrates Pauline Oliveros' important role in the founding and mentoring of Nameless Sound, as well as her connections to DiverseWorks' history as an important presenter and champion of sonic art in Houston.

DiverseWorks On Wednesdays (DWOW)

Presented Wednesday evenings from 6 – 8 pm in collaboration with DiverseWorks' Artist Board, DWOW is a weekly series of art activities that includes performance, music, artists' talks, and much more. During the run of *SonicWorks*, Artist Board members **Regina Agu**, **Lisa Harris**, **Rebecca Novak**, and **Ronny Quevedo**, along with other Houston-area artists and scholars, will present a diverse array of sound-based works.

SUPPORT

DiverseWorks is generously supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Texas Commission on the Arts, the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance, foundations, corporations, businesses, and individuals – including DiverseWorks Members.

DiverseWorks Season Sponsors: The Brown Foundation, Inc., The Cullen Trust for the Performing Arts, The Houston Endowment, and The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts

Additional In-Kind Support: Saint Arnold Brewing Company, Topo Chico USA



About DiverseWorks

DiverseWorks is a non-profit art center in Houston, Texas dedicated to commissioning and presenting new visual, performing, and literary art. DiverseWorks is a place where the process of creating art is valued and where artists can test new ideas in the public arena. By encouraging the investigation of current artistic, cultural, and social issues, DiverseWorks builds, educates, and sustains audiences for contemporary art.

DiverseWorks

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(entrance on Cleburne between Fannin and Main)

(713) 223-8346

Gallery Hours: Wednesdays, noon – 8 pm / Thursdays – Saturdays, noon – 6 pm / or by appointment

Admission is open to the public and FREE

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