



Press Announcement:  
25th July 2022

## 'Receiver'

Appau Jr Boayke-Yiadam, Frazer Merrick,  
Joe Namy, Nastassja Simensky

Sun 2 Oct to Fri 23 Dec 2022

Launch Saturday 1st Oct 2022



Appau Jnr Boayke-Yiadam, 2022

Focal Point Gallery is pleased to announce a new group exhibition, opening in Autumn 2022. 'Receiver' recognises the increasingly vibrant developments within contemporary art practice that uses experimental sound and broadcast, as well as highlighting the renewed importance of these mediums to connect communities in the digital age.

This group exhibition at Focal Point Gallery, Big Screen Southend and Southend Pier brings together four artists who consider sound in relation to innovative technologies, placemaking and environmental concerns. It explores Essex's historic and current relationship with broadcasting pioneering audio technologies, the movement of people and cultures, and the unique soundscapes of its coastline and estuaries.

This project builds upon FPG Sounds, a year-long online commissioning project which began in Autumn 2021 to support the development of original sound works by practitioners based in South Essex. Together these acknowledge Southend's long and rich history of innovators working across sound, from the development of EKCO radio to its alternative music scene. In conjunction with this exhibition, Southend's Central Museum will celebrate the centenary of EKCO Radio (opening 24th November 2022) with a display of their original radio and television cabinets.

Four new commissions by the following artists will respond to key themes.

Appau Jr Boayke-Yiadom will create a listening space where people will be welcome to bring along music in a wide range of audio media (vinyl, tape, CD, MP3) to play in the gallery, inviting visitors to listen back to music they love, have not heard in a while or eager to share. The material shared by viewers will form a soundscape played within the space throughout the exhibition, generating an organic, ever-growing playlist where each track shared will be added and incorporated into a compilation mix. A microphone will also be in the space creating opportunity for live sessions and listening events.

This project reflects on how sound sonically reaches us in unexpected ways, as well as its ability to create and change culture. Southend-on-Sea's rich and widely established sonic history is an example of a place where marginalised voices have created communities and spaces where they can hear themselves and effect the shape of the mainstream music culture in Britain. Boayke-Yiadom works across multimedia installation and performance to create installations with multi-layered references, highlighting cultural collision.

As an extension of his FPG Sounds commission 'Hidden Sounds of Play', Frazer Merrick will create an installation of sound-modulated-light using field recordings from seaside resorts all along the Essex coastline; Walton, Clacton, Jaywick, Mersea and Southend. These recordings will modulate an array of fairground lights which the audience can explore using a handheld solar panel to convert the light back to sound and hear Merrick's recordings of arcades, fairgrounds and illuminations. Merrick is a sound artist who uses field recording, circuit bending and instrument building to create carnivalesque experiences which explore the act of play.

Joe Namy will make a new sound piece located at Focal Point Gallery and accessed through QR codes along the length of Southend Pier that explores the history of radio in Essex, healing properties of sound waves, and the poetics of resonance. Namy is an artist, educator, and composer, often working collaboratively and across mediums - in sound, performance, photography, text, video, and installation. His projects focus on social constructs of music and organized sound, like the gender dynamics of bass, colours and tones of militarization, and the complexities of translation from language to language, from score to sound, from drum to dance.

Nastassja Simensky will present two related works: a single channel moving image work with 5.1 sound and an ongoing live transmission and publication via amateur radio of Slow Scan TV (SSTV) images and text. The SSTV images will be hosted on a web page and the devices controlling the live transmission will be located at FPG.

Working both collaboratively and as an individual, Simensky uses moving image, writing, music, performance and fieldwork as a way to explore a material understanding of politics and history in relation to place. Over the last two years, Simensky has been working in Bradwell and the Blackwater Estuary making audio recordings using ham radio and a variety of microphones including contact microphones to record vibrations, coil receivers to record electromagnetic signals and hydrophones in the intertidal zones of mud and the estuary itself. This new audio-visual work draws on the history of transmission and broadcasting in Essex and uses radio in the broadest sense to both explore changing land use and as a tool to make moving image work.

### **Selected Biographies**

Appau Jnr Boakye-Yiadom (b. London) lives and works in London. Working across multimedia installation and performance, combining ready-made objects, sculpture, photography sound, archive and self-produced moving image to create installations with multi-layered references, highlighting cultural collision. Incorporating snippets of film footage and fragments of sound into works, as well as collaborating with musicians for live improvisation.

Selected recent exhibitions and performances include: Southwark Park Gallery 'Before: Socialized, Circularized, Linearized, Artificialized, Corrupt Time' (2022); 'During: Compliments', Fruitmarket, Edinburgh (2022); 'Live Art Commissions', The Roberts Institute of Art, London (2022); 'During: Changeable Behaviour/Behavioural Change (Here Soon)', Quench Gallery, Margate (2021); 'Solos', Goldsmiths CCA, London (2020); 'Jerwood Solo Presentations', Jerwood Space, London (2019); and 'Before: Adaptive Rhythm', Black Tower Projects, London (2018).

Frazer Merrick is a sound artist who uses electromagnetic field recording, circuit bending and instrument building to create carnivalesque sonic experiences. Frazer's work is curious, interactive, and collaborative. He has performed a gig underwater for Essex Book Festival, recorded an awardwinning binaural soundscape of Walton pier for BBC Radio 3, and was selected as one of Sound and Music's New Voices for 2020. Frazer is currently developing the Photon Smasher, a range of instruments which turn light into sound.

Joe Namy is an artist and educator, often working collaboratively across mediums - in sound, performance, sculpture, and video. Namy's projects focus on social constructs of music and organized sound, like the pageantry and politics of opera, gender dynamics of bass, colours and tones of militarization, migration patterns of instruments, and the complexities of translation in all this - from language to language, from

score to sound, from drum to dance. He hosts a monthly DJ residency on Radio alHara called Rhythm on Rhythm; and is currently artist in residence for the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham setting up the Becontree Broadcasting Station, an online radio station serving the Becontree estate.

Nastassja Simensky is an artist who often works collaboratively to make writing, place-specific performances, events, sound work and films as a form of ongoing fieldwork. Leaky Transmissions is an ongoing body of artwork and research Nastassja is developing through a PhD at the Slade exploring changing land-use and the potential of collaborative fieldwork involving artists and archaeologists. Commissions and residencies include: artist-in-residence at West Dean College; commission for Radar, Loughborough; SHERDS, Nottingham Contemporary; Zu Gast bei den KunstVereinenRuhr, Urbane Kunst Ruhr; Brightspot, Diaspore Project Space; Material Culture Unearthed, In-situ Brierfield; Radiophrenia, Centre for Contemporary Art Glasgow; Estuary Festival: Points of Departure; Fictive Dreams, ICA Singapore.

## About Focal Point Gallery

Focal Point Gallery supports the production and presentation of new and recent contemporary art that challenges us to think and feel differently about locality, our sense of self and the importance of communities. Our wide-ranging and pioneering artistic programme is relevant to local and national audiences alike, through exploring current concerns that also resonate internationally. Based in Southend-on-Sea on the Thames Estuary, FPG's activities take place in locations across the region with our reach extended by working collaboratively with like-minded partners.

FPG is located on the ground floor of The Forum in Elmer Square, 100 metres from Southend Central Station. As south Essex's only public funded gallery for contemporary art, FPG receives regular funding from Arts Council England and is part of Southend-on-Sea City Council.

Opening hours: Wed to Sat 11.00am to 5.00pm, Sun 11.00am to 4.00pm

For further information, please contact 01702 534108  
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