

Sounding Nature|2021

Sounding Nature by **Diana CHESTER**, is an installation of Sonic Visualizations created during the COVID-19 pandemic. The pieces are meditations on nature, the ocean, and loneliness.

Gallery25

Exhibition dates: 6 to 22 July 2021
Gallery opening hours: Tuesday to Friday 10:00am - 4:00pm
Building 10, 2 Bradford St, Mount Lawley

ECU Galleries



Artist Statement

Sounding Nature is an installation of Sonic Visualizations created during the pandemic. The pieces are meditations on nature, the ocean, and loneliness. These works attempt to create spaces where visitors can get lost in the mesmerizing appeal and absurdity of the visual environments. The compositions in these pieces are original and improvised. This work is most inspired by the solitude and reliance on inner strength that emerged particularly for those living alone during the pandemic. These musical pieces were inspired by a desire to collaborate with musicians in different geographies, all of whom lived alone, to bring a form of togetherness and connectedness while in our own isolated places.

Two by Two combines 2D animation and live action footage from Sydney, New York, and Singapore with a composition created by artists in Sydney and New York.

Coogee combines film with a composition made from field recordings and improvised instrumentation all recorded at the beach in Sydney.

Biography

Diana CHESTER is a digital media artist, scholar, and musician. Her creative work is an exploration and analysis of the power of creative response to elements of everyday life and attempts to address questions about the human condition. Diana is fascinated by recorded sounds, their interplay with visual environments and their ability to capture sonic snapshots of place. This gives organization to her work and informs her compositional style and approach.

Diana has received numerous residencies and awards for her work including the NMEMNM Digital Residency for Music and Sound Cultures, TISCH School of the Arts visiting scholar position at New York University, and artist residencies at the InterArtsCenter in Malmo, Sweden, and at ArtHub Liwa in the UAE. She has exhibited her work in numerous galleries, exhibition spaces, and online forums including: Sonic Storyboard: The Islamic Call to Prayer, Sweden, 2019; Jungle Dreamscape, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney 2018; Composition as Exploration, The Eaves, October 2017; Theyyam Ritual, Nature, and People, Folklore Village, Kerala, India 2017; Theyyam Nilathezhuthu, Keezhara Gallery, Kannur, India 2016; Sonic Storyboard of the Call to Prayer, Gallery 4211 Abu Dhabi, UAE 2015; Everyday Life, IMA Hall Kerala, India, 2014; and Babel, New York University Gallery Abu Dhabi, UAE, 2010.

Diana is a Lecturer at the University of Sydney and has held academic positions at Yale-NUS College in Singapore, and New York University Abu Dhabi, in the UAE. Diana has published numerous articles, book chapters, and audio essays in the areas of pedagogy, sound studies, sounds of religion, and more recently using sound as a medium for expressing and untangling historical narratives. Her first book, Sonic Encounters: The Islamic Call to Prayer is forthcoming with Rowman and Littlefield Publishers at the end of the year. Diana grew up in New York and now resides in Sydney. You can find more information on her work on her website www.dianachester.com

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Two by Two, 2020, animated video, 7:59

A ludicrous animated video that explores partnership, loneliness, and the relationship with one's self. Two by Two is about the human dance, about interaction and touch and joy and confusion, about the inward looking and outward facing self, and sometimes looking right at oneself. Collaboration with New York flutist Francesca Hoffman.

2

Coogee, 2020, field recordings and improvised instrumentation,

This sonified visualization of waves crashing on the rock pool is a contemplation on nature and time. Chronicling my daily pandemic routine or a walk to the beach, Coogee is a piece that encourages getting lost in our thoughts and in our ideas.

Both works are available for sale via NFT. For all sale enquiries of work please contact the artist directly at diana.chester@gmail.com