

Steve Parker: *Futurist Listening*

Curated by Marcela Guerrero

January 9 - February 12, 2020

Opening Reception:

Thursday, January 9, 6-8PM

Improvisational Brass

Performance with Steve Parker and Guests:

Friday, January 10, 7-8:30PM



Steve Parker, *Ghost Box*, 2018. Brass, wires, ink on paper, electronics, headphones, instrument case, 96 x 144 x 12 inches.

CUE Art Foundation is pleased to present *Futurist Listening*, Steve Parker's first solo exhibition in New York City, curated by Marcela Guerrero. This series of work takes the form of sonic headwear, acoustic sculptures built from brass instruments, and graphic scores, all of which build upon World War II audio tactics such as jamming signals, coded messages, and warning sirens, reimagining them in sculptural form as vehicles for present-day protest and deception.

These systems are mapped out across the gallery with trumpet pipes welded into sprawling abstract lines, diagrammed and layered on paper scores, or compiled into looming brass speakers and noise intoners. In the piece *ASMR Étude*, Parker recreates wearable acoustic locators through which one can hear popular Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response, or ASMR, recordings made to treat anxiety, PTSD, and insomnia. Another piece, titled *Ghost Box*, requires visitors to activate the sculpture through touch, initiating different looped audio clips of coded songs from the Underground Railroad, coded transmissions like Morse Code, and jamming signals of Soviet Russia and Communist China. Together, these constructions chart a multitude of possible choreographies for each listener to embody their sonic components, implicating the listener's body as a site for receiving and issuing calls to action. Engaging auditory tools associated with early twentieth century political conflict and war, Parker invites us to listen closely to the ways that sound can be used to incite resistance, disrupt systems of control, and ease anxiety and illness.

Drawing upon the listening philosophies of composers Pauline Oliveros and John Cage, Parker's work meditates on the possibilities for sound to affect the listener's body. In her catalogue essay, Lilia Rocio Taboada writes: "Without a key or legend to assist the viewer, the compositions hover between maps, musical scores, and dance notations—all visual tools to spur physical action on the part of a viewer or performer. As with his sound works, Parker offers a participatory tool, but leaves interpretation open to the viewer's aural or physical response." Entangling twentieth century technology and theory with somatic inquiry offers an opportunity to better understand connections between the past and present as we envision the future. In doing so, Parker asks us to consider the ways in which sonic systems historically used for violent ends might be manipulated to serve as both an invitation to collective action and a means for community building and healing.



Steve Parker, *ASMR Étude*, 2018. Brass, plastic, copper, speakers, electronics, and recorded voices, dimensions variable.

Steve Parker is an artist, musician, and curator who creates communal, democratic work to examine history, systems, and behavior. He is the recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship, a Harrington Fellowship, and the Tito's Prize. Parker has exhibited and performed at institutions, public spaces, and festivals internationally. Highlights include Art Basel, Miami Beach, FL; the Lucerne Festival, Switzerland; MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA; the Lincoln Center Festival, New York, NY; the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR; the Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY; the Fusebox Festival, Austin, TX; Tanglewood, Lenox, MA; inSIGHT, Los Angeles Philharmonic, CA; SXSW, Austin, TX; The Stone at the New School, New York, NY; Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans, LA; the Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, TX; the Asian Arts Initiative, Philadelphia, PA; The Contemporary Austin, Austin, TX; Bowerbird, Philadelphia, PA; and the Gene Siskel Film Center, Chicago, IL. As a soloist and as an artist of NYC-based "new music dream team" Ensemble Signal, he has premiered more than 200 new works.

Parker has been awarded support from the National Endowment for the Arts, New Music USA, the Copland Foundation, the Puffin Foundation, and the Mid America Arts Alliance. He is the Curator of SoundSpace at the Blanton Museum of Art, Executive Director of Collide Arts, and a full-time faculty member at UT San Antonio. He holds degrees in Math and Music from Oberlin, Rice, and UT Austin.

Marcela Guerrero is Assistant Curator at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, where she recently curated the exhibition *Pacha, Llaqta, Wasichay: Indigenous Space, Modern Architecture*, on view from July 13–September 30, 2018. From 2014 to 2017, she worked as a Curatorial Fellow at the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles, where she was involved in the much-lauded exhibition *Radical Women: Latin American Art, 1960-1985*, organized as part of the Getty Foundation's Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA initiative and guest-curated by Cecilia Fajardo-Hill and Andrea Giunta. Prior to joining the Hammer, she worked in the Latin American and Latino art department at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, where she was the research coordinator for the International Center for the Arts of the Americas. Guerrero's writing has appeared in exhibition catalogues and in art journals such as *caa.reviews*, *ArtNexus*, *Caribbean Intransit*, *Gulf Coast*, *Interventions*, and *Diálogo*. Born and raised in Puerto Rico, Guerrero holds a PhD in art history from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

The exhibition is accompanied by a 32-page color catalogue, with texts by Steve Parker, Marcela Guerrero, and Lilia Rocio Taboada. The catalogue is available online and free of charge to gallery visitors. For more information please contact Programs Manager Lilly Hern-Fondation at lilly@cueartfoundation.org.

CUE Art Foundation is a visual arts center dedicated to creating essential career and educational opportunities for artists of all ages. Through exhibitions, arts education, and public programs, CUE provides artists, writers, and audiences with sustaining, meaningful experiences and resources.

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