Accessibility Support for Visitors with Limited Hearing

All sound-based artworks in this exhibition have a text-based equivalent. Each artwork listed below is described to ensure visitors with limited hearing have an understanding of the audio component.
Adam Basanta

The loudest sound in the room experienced very quietly, 2015

Sound installation
Microphone, reclaimed speaker cone, PA amplifier, VU meter, acrylic, metal, electronics

The audio component for this artwork is a feedback signal, which is triggered every 30 seconds by an automated timer. By observing the decibel meter placed on top of the amplifier, it is possible to see when the feedback loop is active. The feedback signal is around 120 decibels in volume but is barely audible outside of this sealed acoustic isolation tank. The audio signal lasts for 30 seconds before turning itself off.
Adam Basanta

Curtain (white), 2016

Sound installation
240 pairs white earbuds, acrylic, electronics, 24 channel sound

The audio component of this artwork contains patterns of white noise—a sound which masks surrounding sounds, and is often used in “sleep machines.” This pattern of white noise sweeps across the curtain from left to right. Despite the synthetic production techniques, the sound mass evokes organic memories of waves, wind, rain and insects.
Marjie Crop Eared Wolf

Niitsi’powahsin Secwepemctsín, 2021–2022

Mixed-media installation

The audio component of this artwork is the artist’s voice. On the left screen, the artist is reciting words from the Blackfoot Dictionary, and on the right screen, she is speaking words from the Secwepemc Dictionary.

The drawings placed between the video screens consist of the same words spoken by the artist. The drawing on the left contains Blackfoot words and the drawing on the right contains Secwepemc words. The middle drawing is a mix of the two languages.

A copy of the Blackfoot Language Workbook is available in the hallway seating area for visitors to read in more depth.
Benny Nemer

**The Last Song**, 2013

Mixed-media installation

The audio component of this artwork is a singer performing the song “Tu m’Offendi,” from Vivaldi’s aria *La Verità in Cimento* (“the truth in contention”). During the first section of the song the singer’s voice is in a lower baritone range, before he “breaks” midway through and sings in the higher soprano range. The sheet music for the song is printed below in the original language of Italian.
Tu m’offendi mà non rendi

*Adagio*

Aria from the opera

La verità in cimento (1720)

Antonio VIVALDI (1678 – 1741)

Realized and edited by Sergei PICHUGIN

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te mio fra-ter-no dol-ce a
mor. Tu m'o-
fen di mà non ren di Me no for-te e me-no a-man-te, Il co
Il mio fratello dolce amor,
Il mio fratello dolce amore.
Qual' io sia, son tuo Ger ma no, E se fos si tuo so

p

vra no Per te ta

le e i fo ra an cor, per te ta

D.S. al Fine

le e i fo ra an cor.
jamilah malika abu-bakare

listen to Black women (II) + offerings (III), 2021

Sound installation

The audio component of this artwork is a collage of voices. Short excerpts from each speaker are printed on the back of the images hanging in the gallery. Visitors are invited to remove a single image from the wall and take it home with them. A full transcript of the audio collage is printed on the following pages.
Transcript of *listen to Black women (II)*

Featured voices indicated by changes in type:
Azealia Banks - July Black - Angela Davis - Amara La Negra - Keke Palmer - Rihanna

*i have to say it*

*i’m a Black woman*

**Black women**

*i come from a Black woman*

*determined, fighting Black women*

*who came from a Black woman, who came from a Black woman*

**God bless us**

*and i’m gonna give birth to a Black woman and-

generations of Black women
generations of Black women-generations of Black women-
generations of Black women-
back to back to back to back to back to back to back to back to back and i get it you know
it’s like-

determined, fighting Black women

*why is it so hard for people to understand or accept me? you know? and-

generations of Black women have carried a disproportionate burden in the family
as they are determined, and were determined to keep its integrity intact against the constant onslaught of indignities to which it has been subjected you get what i mean?*

*so if i say somethin’ i’m sayin’ somethin’ for a reason*

*like i’m-
i gotta be the bitter Black b**** because i like
have somethin’ to say about it

the fact that i even have to answer these questions
the fact that i have to feel as if i have to prove myself
um ‘cause every single part of me is being questioned

as they are determined, and were determined

whenever it comes to our “things” like

and i feel like

i feel-

i feel-

i feel-

and i feel like so many times Black women say stuff and

nobody gives a s***

excuse my language, nobody gives a F***

when sometimes Black women say somethin’

but somebody of another complexion, somebody of another colour

they say somethin’ and then it’s like

“we’re taking it to court”

you know? and-

“it’s time to get serious”

you know? and-

“#metoo”

and it makes me upset

why is it so hard for people to understand or accept me?

but what i- what i’m saying in general

whenever i have to say anything about anything it’s like

“oh here goes this crazy Black b****,

here this dadadadada-“

but that she refused-

that she refused-

that she refused to be treated as

less than a human being any longer

so whatever you’re feeling, take it to the altar

‘cause i’m not the one that’s responsible for your feelings

and that’s really what you’re attacking me for?

that’s re-? like, think about it

you have no other-

you have no other reason to come at me

i think people have such a perception of a Black woman being so strong
that we just ‘sposed to take anythi-
anythi-
anything
thrown at us and then when we don’t, “we’re weak”
well no, i’m supposed to get beat down
by everybody that comes near me?
no!
i’ll be that b-
i gotta be the bitter Black b**** because i like
have somethin’ to say about it

but at that moment just to hear that you don’t even know how to react
you don’t know if-
to be like: the f*** you just said to me right now?

what the f***

but she’s also talking about all of the anonymous Black women
who gave their lives through their participation

i’ll be that b****
if that means i have to stand for me
and i have to show other young women
that you should not let people take advantage of you
no matter who they are
i don’t care if it was the g****** president

oooooooon
so yes

i have to say it

so if i say somethin’
i’m sayin’ somethin’ for a reason

i have to say it

we really have to talk about this

you know i can get crucified for saying things like this
but it is the truth
and i know that a lot of people like to cover the sun with one finger
and pretend that the issue is not there
but that’s what’s happening, that- because nobody wants to talk about it
it’s been happening for years-
for years-
and years-
and years-
and nobody is actually being vocal about it

i don’t like when people think that somebody just gon’ be
sayin’ somethin’ just to say it
hers has been a desperate effort
to make a place of dignity for her people

first of all i love Black people
i love my people
you know what i’m saying

we’re impeccable
we are im-pec-ca-ble
we’re special

and the world is just gonna have to deal with that

so whatever you’re feeling, take it to the altar
‘cause i’m not the one that’s responsible for your feelings

first of all i love Black people
i love my people
you know what i’m saying-

and y’all will sweep that s*** right under the f***** rug
and we’re just s’posed to take anything thrown at us

you know what
unfortunately i almost feel that because
i’ve heard it so many times

you know there’s this part of me that felt like
i don’t even wanna be mad at you
i just- i just feel like i should educate you about it
like i don’t even wanna be mad at you
‘cause at this point

where have you been living, under a rock? like
but at the same time i can’t even be mad at you because-

it’s kinda like
what the hell, you know
you just lazy

noooo - she depressed

so until y’all m********s are ready to talk about what y’all owe me
whether the number’s seven trillion or eight trillion
or nine trillion
at the very f***** least y’all owe me the right to my f***** identity
and to not exploit that sh-

nobody really talks about it
we kinda just shut up and take it and just sit back
and we’re just s’posed to take anything thrown at us
no!

it’s like Black
li- like a Black woman can like really sit here and say like
whatever the f*** she feels like
without being shot at or like sprayed by a hose or some s***

we can say without the slightest hesitation
that there has never been a single moment
in the history of our people in this country
when Black women were not intensely involved
in the resistance struggle

so you get what i mean?

God bless us

my mother’s raised me to be an incredible woman
and she’s a strong, incredible example
of what to be and how to fight
through obstacles in life
and i’m sure her mom has also taught her, and
that’s how i’m gonna be

when i speak of Black women i have to-

and i’m sure her mom has also taught her

praise my own mother
and when i reflect upon the
long and infinitely rich history of struggle
that has been written with the sweat
and blood
of Black women

you have to look a certain type of way
in order to be pretty
your hair needs to be straight and silky
in order to be pretty

no
it’s not cool
it’s not cool, because
that’s not how it should be
that’s it!

well then that’s their problem
that’s your problem, you know what i mean?
that’s your problem
you- you’re picking and choosing

now listen, i’m a creative individual, i have-

we’re impeccable
we are im-pc-ca-ble
we’re special

oh my God you’re so pretty
for being a Black girl

really?

at the end of the day i don’t wish nobody no ill
but i gotta be down for me
if i’mma be down for anybody
i’ve got to be down for me

and once Black women became involved
in the fight and liberation of the people

God bless us

then half the battle was won

it’s over it’s done
but at least anybody knows i won’t be tried
that’s the real point of it all, you have to set your boundaries
you know what i’m saying? i have to let people know
now y’all know

i must admit that i felt
very triumphant to be able to speak-

listen i talk
i talk about so-
and it’s so funny cause i talk about so many different things

and then of course when we speak of the involvement
of Black women
and the struggle
Black women said no
they would not allow another one of their sisters
to be swallowed up
by the racist monster of oppression
that she refused to be treated as less than a human being any longer