Outside In: Phil Peters and Karen Reimer
September 22 – November 10, 2019
Opening Reception: Sunday, September 22, 4-6pm

In 2014, LAXART relocated from Culver City to a building that for several decades was home to Radio Recorders, a legendary recording studio used by a Who’s Who of American popular music. Elvis Presley, Charlie Parker, and Chet Baker, to name but a few, made seminal recordings here. Despite its subsequent use as an office facility and now a visual arts gallery, this building will forever be haunted by iconic recordings whose sounds are but a mere trace of their author’s physical presence. Outside In is the first in a series of exhibitions to address the site’s inexhaustible legacy.

Outside In is an exhibition doubling as an occasion to survey contemporary sound-based art having field recordings at its base. As an inaugural gesture, Outside In will reverse Radio Recorders role as a studio. Instead of producing, documenting and ultimately distributing sounds produced on site, this exhibition, as its title suggests, will bring sounds from the outside in. Toward that end, Outside In, in addition to being an exhibition, will also consist of three evenings of deep listening devoted to experimental field recordings. These listening sessions, which will at times feature live musical accompaniment, will take place over the course of the exhibition.

As a standing exhibition, Outside In consists of two monumental components, one sound, the other visual. The latter, by Chicago-based artist Karen Reimer, is a quilted canopy of hand dyed indigo fabric that will cover the entire ceiling area of the gallery. The former, by Phil Peters, is a sound installation utilizing six custom subwoofers designed to play recordings he made by burying microphones at drilling and fracking sites in west Texas. Between the devil and the deep blue sky is the phrase that best sums up the relationship between these components, Reimer’s being a radical reconfiguration of an existing work and Peter’s being a new production.

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LAXART is a nonprofit visual art space that promotes developments in contemporary culture through exhibitions, publications, and public programs.

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