

# BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Blanton's *SoundSpace* Pays Homage to Music of the 1990s; Brings Together Noted Musicians and Artists including Graham Reynolds, Tim Barnes and Others**



***SoundSpace: Music of the 1990s***  
**Sunday, February 28 | 2:00pm**

AUSTIN, Texas—January 14, 2016—The Blanton Museum of Art at The University of Texas at Austin presents the next installation of its acclaimed *SoundSpace* music series. This iteration draws inspiration from the Blanton's much-anticipated upcoming exhibition, ***Come as You Are: Art of the 1990s***, and aims to examine parallels between music and the exhibition's main themes of identity politics, the Internet revolution, and globalization. *SoundSpace: Music of the 1990s* will feature an array of post-minimalist works and musical improvisers including a **telematic performance** from the acclaimed **No Idea Festival**, participatory works for a **boombox choir**, several original performance pieces inspired by the 1990s, and other experimental musical works.

**Telematic performance** is a live performance by musicians in different geographic locations who make use of Internet technologies to coordinate their work. Featuring participants from Austin's 2016 **No Idea Festival**, this telematic performance will include: Double bassist **Mike Majkowski** from Berlin; rock legend **Tim Barnes** (Silver Jews, Royal Trux, Sonic Youth); Mexico City's thriving avant-garde musicians **Alex Bruck**, **Ramon del Buey** and **Misha Marks**; Norwegian free jazz luminary **Frode Gjerstad**; improvising double bassist **Damon Smith** of Houston; and New York-based guitarist **Ava Mendoza**. [No Idea](#) is a music festival featuring some of the most innovative composers of contemporary, improvised, and experimental music from around the world in

direct collaboration with Texas musicians, and takes place at various venues throughout Austin from February 25-28.

*SoundSpace* attendees will have a rare opportunity to participate as a **boombox choir**, creating “mobile sound sculptures,” as developed by Phil Kline in the 1990s. Audience members are asked to BYOB (Bring Your Own Boombox), and tapes will be provided. Boomboxes will simultaneously play different parts of a coordinated piece of music, providing each listener with a unique auditory experience. Austin artist **Laura Brackney** will also premiere a Kline-inspired participatory work.

Austin artist **Katelena Hernandez Cowles** will present *1992 (On making the hidden and invisible shown and visible; and on making it hidden and invisible again)*, in which she reacts to a performance piece she created as an undergraduate at Yale University in 1992. Through video, spoken word, body manipulation, and movement, she contemplates how her own truth-telling and gendered, exposed body were shamed, silenced, and censored in ways that paralleled events of the political and artistic spheres of the same year. She will further examine the ways in which her body and personal process of exploration continue to be problematic today.

**Matthew Steinke's *Octant*** is an experimental noise rock project formed in 1998 in Washington State, combining hacked digital and analog electronics with improvised noise on homemade instruments. Emerging from the 90s DIY indie movement, the idea of creating and performing with modified and invented instruments was partly inspired by Branca and Sonic Youth. Steinke's performance continues along the same trajectory, focusing on the harmonics and textures produced by his instruments while maintaining the playful energy derived from the original incarnation of *Octant*.

Critically acclaimed, Austin favorite **Graham Reynolds** will open the program with a solo set of original music inspired by the Blanton's exhibition, *Come as You Are: Art of the 1990s*.

**Zac Traeger**, curator of Austin's Museum of Human Achievement, will present a set of generative sound poetry using Kurt Cobain's voice as source material.

**Dave Dove**, director of Houston's **Nameless Sound**, will present an original work for trombone, electronics, and subwoofers influenced by DJ Screw, a Houston hip hop DJ from the 1990s. A trombone player, composer, improviser, and educator, Dove has performed and taught workshops across North America, Europe, and Vietnam. He has collaborated with some of the top national and international artists in contemporary music. As the founder of Nameless Sound, Dove has pioneered an innovative approach to creative music education based on creativity, diversity, and improvisation.

**Performance artist Michael Anthony Garcia (Los Outsiders)** will present an original work titled *All That You Can Be*. In his performance, Garcia attempts to take ownership of appearance-based racial and prejudicial epithets that have been placed upon him throughout his life. The performance is intended as a Buddhist gesture in which Garcia cleanses the past and looks towards the future.

**Alex Keller** will explore the world of electromagnetic sound fields. Created by an interference with consumer electronics and induction in magnetic fields, electromagnetic sound is normally inaudible to the human ear and microphones alike. In this abstract piece, Keller will uncover these usually hidden sounds.

Heralded by the *Austin American-Statesman* as “The most successful new music event in the City,” *SoundSpace* is organized for the Blanton by Artistic Director Steven Parker. A dynamic concert series that brings together musicians and other creatives from all corners of Austin’s artistic community and beyond, *SoundSpace* is now in its sixth year. The series focuses on making connections between visual and sound art, and demonstrates the Blanton’s commitment to nurturing collaborations that provide innovative experiences with art, inspire creativity, and support the educational mission of The University of Texas at Austin.

*SoundSpace: Music of the 1990s* is open to the public and included with the purchase of general museum admission: \$9 for adults, \$7 for seniors, \$5 for students, and free for Blanton Members, UT Students, Faculty and Staff, and children 12 and under. More information can be found at [www.blantonmuseum.org](http://www.blantonmuseum.org).

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#### **About the Blanton Museum of Art**

Founded in 1963, the Blanton Museum of Art is one of the foremost university art museums in the country and holds the largest public collection in Central Texas. Recognized for its modern and contemporary American and Latin American art, Italian Renaissance and Baroque paintings, and encyclopedic collection of prints and drawings, the Blanton offers thought-provoking, visually arresting, and personally moving encounters with art.

The museum is located at the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Congress Avenue and is open Tuesday through Friday from 10–5, Saturday from 11–5, and Sunday from 1–5. Thursdays are free admission days and every third Thursday the museum is open until 9. Admission Prices: Adults \$9, Kids 12 and under FREE, Seniors (65+) \$7, Youth/College Students (13–21) \$5. Admission is free to members, all current UT ID-holders. For additional information call (512) 471-7324 or visit [www.blantonmuseum.org](http://www.blantonmuseum.org).

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#### **Photo Caption:**

Steve Parker performing at *SoundSpace: Musical Outsiders*, June 2015

Photo by Mengwen Cao