

Sounding Kingston and the gateway to Lake Ontario

Over the past four years, my creative work has engaged with the soundscape of the area surrounding the Lachine Canal in Montreal. While in at the Digital Poetics and Politics conference in Kingston (August 3-10 2004) we did a series of listening soundwalks, soundwalk recordings, and short compositions from these sound recordings which are paired here with digital images to form a sound-based web work. These works were done collaboratively with a group of researchers including some who are very familiar with the Kingston sound environment.

I am excited about working with the sounds of the Kingston region, because they are thematically and geographically connected with my present work. The lock system beginning at the Lachine rapids that gives access for Maritime commerce to the Great Lakes continues through to Kingston. Historical traces of earlier boating along this system can be found at Upper Canada Village, where a horse-drawn barge still exists. I am particularly interested in recording sound near the lake, and in charting how and to what extent industrialisation and tourism have affected the soundscape. These recordings would eventually form part of an environmental suite on the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence waterway.

These soundwalks were done in the vicinity of Queen's University as part of the Digital Poetics and Politics conference, August 3-10, 2004. Conference participants did a group soundwalk and we also did several individual soundwalks along the same route, by lake Ontario close to the water filtration plant.

Participants include: Roberta Buiani, Max Haiven, Kirsty Robertson, Matt Soar, Ayesha Hameed, Andra McCartney, Jacky Sawatzky, Rinaldo Walcott, Kristi Allik, Dannys Montes de Oca Moreda, Robert Mulder, Michele Wozny, Sohi al Zobaidi, Nick Dyer, Glenn Gear, Gita Hashemi, Miriam Verburg, Tamara Vukov, Sean Cubitt, Anna Friz, Matt Rogalsky, Kim Sawchuk, Michael Uwemedimo, Christopher Cozier, Raul Ferrera-Balanquet, Richard Fung, Heidi Grundmann, Lisa Gasior, Anne-Marie Ennis.

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Chance composition

Masts

Mix your own soundwalk