

firstdraft

Gallery 3

3 Mar – 11 Apr 2021

The Perceiving of Sound

Susan Hawkins

In January–February 2020 I undertook the Art Gallery of NSW Moya Dyring Studio Residency at the Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris. I initially went in search of one of the oldest French instruments, the *épinette des Vosges*, a timber-stringed instrument that is still being made in Mirecourt, a commune in the Vosges department in northeastern France. On my return to Paris, I took sound recordings around the city, of sirens, bells, and musicians in the white-tiled metro. As John Cage notes, all places have their own sound mark.

The Perceiving of Sound is an installation of found objects, including timber furniture, cable sleeves, brass kempul gongs, found drop sheets, the *épinette des Vosges*, a DC motor and crystals. The viewer is encouraged to closely move through this soundscape and feel the sound, sit, lay and touch. It is an immersive sound work where the viewer can partake in their own personal experience of perceiving sound. – Susan Hawkins

Working between Sydney and Brisbane, **Susan Hawkins'** practice spans sculpture, object and sound-based practice. She uses reclaimed industrial and domestic objects and incorporates motors and sound to create sculptures and installations for both art galleries and the public realm. She is interested in how these objects reference forgotten symbolic power while playfully altering them to highlight the symbolic bias of our personal and public surroundings.

Originally from Gunnedah, NSW, Hawkins completed a Bachelor of Fine Art at the Queensland College of Art in 2014 with a double major in Sculpture, Jewellery and Small Objects. She has presented four major solo exhibitions: *Make of Me*, Blindsight, Melbourne, 2016; *The Remainder*, Metro Arts Residency Program, Brisbane, 2017; *The Speaker*, Outer Space Artist Run Initiative, Brisbane, 2019; and *Considering Space*, Milani Gallery, Brisbane, 2019. Hawkins has also presented work through Brisbane's people+artist+place at Howard Smith Wharfs, Brisbane, 2019, for Metro Arts as part of Brisbane City Council's Temporary Public Art program.

In 2020, Hawkins received funding from Arts Queensland and was awarded the Art Gallery of NSW Moya Dyring Studio Residency at the Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris.

Gallery 1&2

A call to rise

Curated by Eleanor Zurowski

Gallery 4

Lustration

Kirtika Kain

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we acknowledge and pay respect to the gadigal people of the eora nation, the traditional owners of the land on which firstdraft is built and operates.

firstdraft is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW; and assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.



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The Perceiving of Sound

Susan Hawkins

Artwork

For sales enquiries, please
email susiehawko@gmail.com

The Perceiving of Sound, 2021

dimensions variable, timber, copper, brass, stirrup,
leather, kempul gongs, DC motors, sensors, cable
sleeve, heatshrink, recycled dropsheet, crystal
sound, 3 minutes.

Sound recording and editing: Joseph Burgess
POA

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