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PRESS VIEW Thursday 8 February, 2 – 4 pm
EXHIBITION 09 February – 28 May 2018

BALTIC

SERENA KORDA | MISSING TIME
09 February – 28 May 2018



Serena Korda collecting sound recordings inside a 'sound mirror' along the North East coastline
Photo Courtesy: Chris Egon Searle

BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art are pleased to announce a major solo exhibition by Serena Korda, *Missing Time* (9 February–28 May 2018). Korda is currently the Norma Lipman & BALTIC Fellow in Ceramic Sculpture at Newcastle University, a two-year residency which culminates in this exhibition.

Korda's work encompasses performance, sound and sculpture – exploring the rituals created within communities, and re-examining abandoned social histories. Her resulting work reconsiders aspects of communion and tradition in our lives. Throughout her career, Korda has explored the materiality and sonic potential of ceramics, presenting works which demonstrate the resonance and animism of objects.

During her time in Newcastle for her fellowship, Korda has taken inspiration from her location and the people she's met while exploring the landscape along the coastline of North East England. Her work has evolved from a chance encounter with the pre-radar acoustic 'sound mirrors' found dotted along the coastline from Sunderland to Selsey. These coastal structures attempted to detect the sound of enemy planes during the First World War. When making field recordings, Korda discovered how the sound mirrors amplified soundwaves which led her to consider the act of listening and how we can tune in to things that are otherwise imperceptible to the human ear.

During her research, Korda has explored planetary harmonics using homemade radio telescopes to pick up the sound of our galaxy. The particular frequencies derived from the planets, otherwise known as the 'Music of the Spheres', were believed during the Renaissance period to have a direct effect on the human psyche. Inspired by these different ways of listening, the potential healing power of sounds and their use as a way of communicating, Korda has created a series of large ceramic dish-shaped portals that act as sound resonators.

Working with North-East based acapella group *Mouthful* (Katherine Zeseron, Bex Mathers, Dave Camlin and Sharon Durant), Korda has created a sound work that plays with the harmonics of each portal and a powerful live performance that touches on invisible forces, consciousness and what lies beyond planet Earth.

Serena Korda commented: *"The opportunity to spend time in the Northumberland landscape has inspired a contemplative response to darkness and things that are seemingly invisible. This is an environment with a dark skies status allowing me to immerse myself in ways of connecting to our galaxy at a time when planet earth seems like a hostile and difficult place to be human."*

Serena Korda is the current Lipman and BALTIC Fellow in Ceramic Sculpture. The fellowship is supported by Newcastle University and The Norma Lipman Memorial Trust

Events:

Performance | Serena Korda: *Missing Time*

Fri 9 Mar 18.30

Combining voice, electronics, sounds of the ether and Morse code, Serena Korda presents a performance inspired by the healing potential of sound and the dark skies status of the Northumberland landscape featuring local a capella group Mouthful, her sound mirrors and Morse code operators from Tyneside Amateur Radio Society.

In Conversation: Professor John Bowers & Serena Korda

Sat 10 Feb

Professor of Creative Digital Practice at Newcastle University and sound artist John Bowers talks to the artist about their shared interest in noise, interference, earth signals and the paranormal.

In Conversation: Andrew Fletcher & Serena Korda

Sat 10 Mar

Andrew Fletcher, Senior Lecturer in applied Mathematics at Newcastle University and Serena Korda about the ionosphere, radio astronomy and how to make a radio telescope to hear things that are inaudible to the human ear.

In Conversation: Johanna Sheehan & Serena Korda

Sat 7 Apr

Sound healer Johanna Sheehan, talks to Serena Korda about how sound can heal, reconnecting to nature through shamanism and the importance of inviting your ancestors into a room.

In Conversation: Angela Voss & Serena Korda

Sat 14 Apr

Honorary lecturer in Myth, Cosmology and the Sacred at Canterbury Christ Church University Angela Voss and Serena Korda discuss the importance of symbolism and imagination as an antidote to Post-Enlightenment reason.

Notes to Editors:

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Spokespeople Available Include:

Curators

- Emma Dean and Katharine Welsh

Artist

- Serena Korda

About Serena Korda:

Serena Korda is currently the Norma Lipman and BALTIC fellow in Ceramic Sculpture at Newcastle University. Her work encompasses large-scale ensemble performances, sound and sculpture to reconsider aspects of communion and tradition in everyday life. Underpinning her practice is a desire to find and highlight ritual in the everyday, developed through encounters, conversations and researching abandoned history. Audiences are often encouraged to participate at some point in her process creating collective experiences that often focus on the forgotten and overlooked. Korda's forthcoming presentation at BALTIC connects to her recent examination of the materiality of objects and sound to explore how resonance and animism bind communities and individuals together.

Korda recently completed a solo show for Glasgow International 2016, *Hold Fast Stand Sure, I Scream a Revolution*, GSA Gallery and performed with her 'Jug Choir' as part of Supernormal 2016. In 2015 Korda completed a public art project for Haverfordwest Black Diamond and in 2014 she undertook a residency at The Museum of Jurassic Technology, Los Angeles. Other notable exhibitions include *Aping the Beast*, Camden Arts Centre, Grundy Art Gallery, The Arnolfini, *Laid to Rest, Dirt: The Filthy Reality of Everyday Life*, Wellcome Collection, London (2011), *W.A.M.A The Work as Movement Archive* (2012), *Spaces for the Imagination* Turner Contemporary, Margate (2011) and *The Library of Secrets*, New Art Gallery Walsall; Whitstable Biennale (2008/2009).

BALTIC is a major international centre for contemporary art situated on the south bank of the River Tyne in Gateshead, England and has welcomed over seven million visitors since opening to the public in July 2002. BALTIC presents a distinctive and ambitious programme of exhibitions and events, and is a world leader in the presentation and commissioning of contemporary visual art.

Housed in a landmark ex-industrial building, BALTIC consists of 2,600 square metres of art space, making it the UK's largest dedicated contemporary art institution. BALTIC has gained an international reputation for its commissioning of cutting-edge temporary exhibitions. It has presented the work of over 396 artists from 54 countries in 197 exhibitions to date.