

Creative Sound Practice Unit Guide 2022-23



Unit Diagram

Week 17	Week 18	Week 19	Week 20	Week 21	Week 22	Week 23	Week 24	Week 25	Week 26	Week 27	Week 28	Week 29	Week 30	Week 31
Block 2														
Global Sonic Cultures (20 credits)										S				
Creative Projects					S	CP (cont) (40 credits)					S			

Unit Introduction

This Unit intends to help you develop further skills for making contemporary sound art using a range of relevant materials, techniques and strategies. It builds upon the previous unit Sonic Doing and Thinking and leads into a subsequent unit in Block 1 of your second year, Specialising and Exhibiting.

We explore here the fundamentals of professional creative sonic practice in relation to the use of machines, ideas and instruments by bodies and minds in the broader social and sonic environment. An essential understanding of sound in the digital domain is shared with you.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit you will be able to:

- Evaluate a variety of contemporary approaches to sound arts. (Realisation)
- Demonstrate your ability to respond individually and collaboratively to a given brief by planning and producing creative sound compositions (Process)
- Evidence your process and enquiry into relevant areas of contemporary and historical contexts and practices (Enquiry, Communication)

Teaching and Learning

How will the unit be delivered and assessed?

The unit is practice-led with the content being taught through practical sharing, experimentation and workshops. This occurs via practical exercises, creative work and through a program of tutor-directed study as well as your vital self-directed initiative.

Listening occupies a central role in your learning throughout your time with us at LCC and this is heavily emphasised in this creative unit.

Unit Tutors



Ingrid Plum incorporates her ethnographic research with phonography and extended vocal technique. A student of Meredith Monk, she creates work that combines Folk Music, Contemporary Composition and Sound Art. Her approach to teaching centres on demystifying methodologies through discussion and experimentation. Her work in activism informs her teaching to create a safe, diverse space where she supports students to develop individual and informed perspectives.

Ingrid Plum

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Week 17: Collective Curation & Graphic Scores

In this session we will discuss a variety of approaches to Collective Curation, through presentation and discussion, followed by a workshop exploring the possibilities of working with graphic scores and the interpretation through performance of different forms of notational devices. We will work towards defining parameters for the release of a compilation of your individual tracks. Using these parameters as our premise for a call for works, you will develop graphic scores to outline a possible response which you will be working on over the next few weeks for your hand-in.

Follow Up:

- Create a new thread or chapter on your blog for this unit and upload your score, discussing the themes of the piece. Consider this an experiment or first draft, so a rough attempt is fine.
- Write an accompanying reflection on the process of using graphic notation.
- Discuss on your group chat how to progress with the ideas from today in terms of collective curation.

Week 18: The Voice

In this session we will explore accessible approaches to working with the voice, sonic identity and listening states. What listening states do we wish to evoke in the audience? What active roles do listeners contribute to sound works? How do we evolve our compositional strategies to investigate the medium we use creatively? We will explore the body and acoustic spaces, examining and interpreting unusual approaches to using the voice, and exercises based on Pauline Oliveros' Deep Listening.

Follow Up:

- Through practical experimentation and digital manipulation explore the use of the voice in your audio track
- update your blog with your research and influences on your developing track

Week 19: DIY Cultures, Artistic Identity and Write Up

This lesson will introduce DIY cultures and their relationship to Sound Art & Design. We will explore the visual representations of sonic identity in developing the collective graphic artwork for the bandcamp release. We will investigate the accessibility of a variety of sound cultures and situate the collective work within current practices. This session will begin with a presentation on the avant garde vs the underground, followed by discussion on collective release and situating it within the wider sound arts context, and a workshop on artistic identity and guidelines for the written submission.

Follow up:

- Using notes from discussions, structure your press release and write up
- Using the group chat to discuss your collective release, develop sub-groups (sub-genres) within the class and discuss how to represent the different genres within one release ie subsections, a series of smaller releases...

Week 20: Psychoacoustics and Auraldiversity

This session will look at our internal filtering processes and the application of our awareness of these unconscious processes in practical experimentation. How do we listen internally? What bias does our listening practice have? Prepare to discuss and finalise your choice of theme for the collective release in this session. After a presentation and workshop on psychoacoustics and listening states and bias, you will be asked to create reflective responses to these findings, developing editing techniques to consciously recreate the unconscious processes discussed; creating edit points, removing unwanted elements, crossfading, splicing, normalising, removing unwanted noise, juxtaposing sounds.

Follow Up:

- Read the attached document: Sound Art: Origins, development and ambiguities by Alan Licht
- Update blog with experiments, research and reflections
- Apply the experiments from this session to your work in progress

Week 21: Sharing Work In Progress

In this session we will share work in progress for supportive and constructive feedback from tutor and students. **Please prepare your audio for playback as a wav file on a USB stick (formatted as ExFAT to work on macs and PCs) and share a link to your blog, you will have 10 minutes to present your work in progress.** As well as playing back the audio of your work in progress, you can also use video, Powerpoint, a prepared text to read, references to work by other artists and lighting. We will frame feedback with guidance, with a positive and supportive intention.

Follow Up:

- Using the notes you made on your feedback, apply this to your work in progress through practical experimentation

- On your blog reflect on the feedback you received and how you have applied it to your practical work and your research
- Finesse mix and finish write up for your hand-in deadline

Spring Break

Continue updating your blog, finish writing your supporting text and complete the final mix of your project ready to submit Element 1 on Thursday, 13th April 2023.