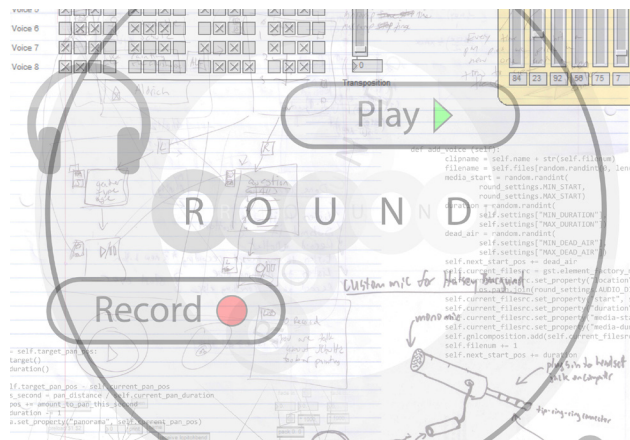


The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum

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Halsey Burgund:ROUND

March 9 to July 27, 2008

Halsey Burgund, Digital collage of graphical excerpts from *ROUND* development process, including GUI elements, code snippets, notes and diagrams, 2008

In a culture where technology enables source information to be collected and maintained by means of collaboration—such as public drives in the workplace and wikis on the Internet—The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum is pleased to present *Halsey Burgund: ROUND*, an exhibition that will introduce, on March 9, 2008, an innovative audio tour guide that operates on a similar premise. The exhibition will close on July 27, 2008.

ROUND is an audio installation that will solicit spoken voice contributions from visitors and use them as part of a musical composition intended to be listened to while viewing the work in the galleries. The interactive audio experience will allow visitors to hear a diverse range of voices—including artists, curators, and visitors—sharing their perspectives about the exhibitions, and to add their responses to the mix. Burgund's installation is supported in part, by a grant from LEF Foundation.

The name of the exhibition alludes to both a musical round—a song in which two or more voices sing exactly the same melody but in an offset fashion—and the age-old Arthurian legend about the Knights of Camelot who sat at a round table, affording no one person a privileged position. Halsey Burgund explains, “Equality of opinion and the opportunity for two-way dialogue are core ideas of this project.”

ROUND will enable visitors to experience other Aldrich exhibitions—specifically *Charlotte Schulz: An Insufficiency in Our Screens* and *Painting the Glass House: Artists Revisit Modern Architecture*—in a new way. The hand-held tablet computers will provide patrons the opportunity to select criteria for the types of voices they would like to hear while looking at the art—female curators, male artists, or children, for instance. Burgund says, “The comments will be collected in a database of recordings and subsequently incorporated into the piece in real-time using various computer algorithms and custom software. Thus, there will be a continual loop of opinion and emotional response, all contained within a musical work.”

The flexible infrastructure developed and built for the installation will become the foundation for *pause. play*, a program for future audio tours at the Museum. Nina Carlson, director of education comments, “Visitors look to museum audio guides for insightful and informed commentary to enhance their experience by facilitating connections to the art they encounter in the galleries. This revolutionary type of guide suits The Aldrich, first, because it encourages a two way dialogue, and second, because we are a non-collecting museum with frequently changing exhibitions.”

The Aldrich will host an Exhibition Reception on Sunday, March 9, 2008, from 3 to 5 pm. The reception is FREE for members. Refreshments will be served. Round-trip transportation from New York City is available; please call the Museum at 203.438.4519 or visit www.aldrichart.org for reservations. The reception will take

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place at the Museum located at 258 Main Street, Ridgefield.

Halsey Burgund is a musician and sound artist who lives and works outside Boston. Both his installations and musical performances make extensive use of spoken human voice recordings as musical elements, alongside traditional and electronic instruments. He collects these voices from otherwise uninvolved individuals whom he records in various locations, from museums to street corners to rock clubs. Halsey's band, Aesthetic Evidence, performs music publicly, often including interactive performances in which he records audience members' voices and uses those recordings improvisationally within songs.

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum is renowned as a national leader for its presentation of outstanding new art, cultivation of emerging artists, and innovation in museum education. Regular Museum hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm. For more information, please call 203.438.4519 or visit www.aldrichart.org.

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