

PRESS RELEASE

FLORIAN HECKER

12 FEBRUARY – 28 MARCH 2010

PREVIEW THURSDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2010 6.30 – 8.30PM

Chisenhale Gallery is pleased to announce a major solo exhibition by Florian Hecker, his first in a UK public institution, comprising a new installation of sound pieces co-commissioned by Chisenhale Gallery, London and IKON Gallery, Birmingham.

Hecker's new commission continues his investigation of sound in relation to the body and space, employing idiosyncratic psychoacoustic propositions in order to examine and disrupt spatial perception. At Chisenhale Gallery he will present a series of four independent, electro-acoustic works that lead the visitor around the gallery space, where each work exposes a fault line in the traditional categorizations of auditory events, auditory objects or streams.

The works range from a 5-channel piece where the perceptual organization of a sequence of tones changes according to the position of the visitor to an apparently monophonic piece in which a single, directional loudspeaker points towards a tiled section of the wall; here, the localisation of the emitted sound oscillates between the speaker and the reflective white surface. *2 x 3 Channel* consists of two separate 3-channel pieces which rotate simultaneously – one clockwise, the other counter clockwise – around the three speakers. A seemingly ever upward moving sonic structure alternates with a sequence of tones illustrating Diana Deutsch's 'Tritone Paradox'. The final 2-channel piece, *Magnitude Estimation*, features a voice reading the loudness values of a given sound. These same utterances are emitted synchronously from an opposing loudspeaker, creating an auditory chimera while doubling the voice, the signification and the measurement of what one hears.

The display of loudspeakers – either suspended from the ceiling or wall-mounted – creates a multimodal amalgamation of auditory and spatial components, constructing an invisible architecture within the gallery, where boundaries are demarcated by the transitions between one sound work and another.

Hecker was born in 1975 in Kissing, Germany. Working in performance, studio and installation, he frequently collaborates with academic researchers in auditory perception and computer music, as well as with other artists such as Russell Haswell, Carsten Höller and Cerith Wyn Evans. He has presented his work internationally including most recently at the 53rd Venice Biennale; BAWAG Contemporary, Vienna, Austria, Evento, Bordeaux, France; The Morning Line, Youniverse, 3 Bial International de Arte Contemporáneo de Sevilla, Spain; Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan (2009); Manifesta 7, South Tyrol, Italy, (2008); Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville, Paris, France, (2006). Forthcoming exhibitions for 2010 include MMK: Museum of Modern Art, Frankfurt, Germany. Hecker is also a regular performer and has an extensive discography including Haswell & Hecker, *Blackest Ever Black*, Warner Classics (2007) and his most recent release *Acid in the Style of David Tudor*, Editions Mego (2009).

For more information please contact Andrew Bonacina on andrew.bonacina@chisenhale.org.uk or +44 (0)20 8981 4518

TALKS & EVENTS

Saturday 27 February, 2pm Independent writer and curator David Bussel leads a tour of the exhibition.

Thursday 18 March, 7pm Robin Mackay, philosopher and editor of the journal *Collapse*, will discuss how Florian Hecker's engineering of perception-as-hallucination invokes a fundamental philosophical question that haunts the scientific discipline of psychoacoustics: What is an (auditory) object?

CHISENHALE GALLERY

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Opening hours

Wednesday to Sunday 1 – 6pm
Thursday 4 March until 9pm