

großer Lauscher

July 22 – August 27, 2017

Opening Reception: Saturday, July 22, 6-9pm

Artist Talk: Saturday, July 22, 6pm



Field Station Berlin, Image: Alyssa Miserendino

Knockdown Center is pleased to present *großer Lauscher*, a spatial sound installation by artist Alyssa Miserendino. *großer Lauscher*, which translates to “big Eavesdropper” in German, was recorded in the main radar dome at Field Station Berlin, a listening station built during the Cold War by the US National Security Agency (NSA). The piece is comprised of five narrators from five different continents reciting the story of Echo from the Roman poet Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*. Exhibited in darkness, the protracted echoes created by the listening station’s architecture allow visitors to visualize the space where the piece was recorded.

The artist weaves together notions of the voice, listening, and privacy through the oration of Echo’s story – a nymph only capable of repeating back what is spoken to her – within a space that at one time monitored and collected the chatter of its surroundings. As Miserendino captures the narrators’ voices echoing within the vast chamber of the listening station, she asks: what happens when we can no longer hear our own voice?

A reading space adjacent to the immersive installation provides visitors with materials from Miserendino’s investigations that inspired the work. Texts that draw from poetry, myth, religion, and news are accompanied by a 1975 television broadcast of an interview with Frank Church, a senator who chaired a U.S. Senate committee to investigate the NSA, CIA, FBI and IRS.

This project is supported by corporate sponsorship from Arup and Genelec. In order to curate an experience driven solely by sound, the unique acoustic signature of the main radar dome at the Field Station Berlin called for a playful interpretation and immersive implementation through sound design. The performance was recorded in a multichannel audio format in Berlin by Alyssa Miserendino with technical support from Arup. In close collaboration with the artist the audio was then processed, spatialized, and rendered into the final piece by Arup acoustic designers using the proprietary 3D audio technology of the Arup SoundLab®. Arup concurrently designed a spatial sound system to render the piece and provided acoustic consulting expertise for the exhibition space, optimizing the patron aural experience.

<http://www.arup.com>

Executive producer: Ryan Biziorek, Arup

Experience design, audiovisual systems design, sound design, programming and production:
Léonard Roussel, Arup

Genelec is a sponsor of *großer Lauscher*, providing studio monitors and mounting accessories for the installation at Knockdown Center. Genelec's design philosophy is based on sustainable development and environmental values, using industrial design to serve their products' acoustical performance. Genelec aims to deliver performance-driven, tonally neutral speaker and subwoofer systems for audio professionals and enthusiasts.

<https://www.genelec.com/>

Additional support has been provided by an Ella Foundation Pratt Emerging Artists Grant, From the Durham Arts Council, with support from the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resource + a grant from the Foundation for Contemporary Arts.

Knockdown Center gallery hours are Thursday and Friday from 5 PM to 9 PM, Saturday and Sunday from 2 PM to 8 PM. Knockdown Center is located at 52-19 Flushing Ave, Maspeth, NY 11378.

About Alyssa Miserendino

Alyssa Miserendino (born in Fox Point, Wisconsin) is an interdisciplinary artist living and working in North Carolina. Her work has been exhibited and published both nationally and internationally. She is the recipient of an investigative journalism grant from the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, a TED speaker, and educator at the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University. Her work is included in the Cleveland Museum of Art, Northwestern University Library and Wilson Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

About Knockdown Center

Featuring programming of diverse formats and media, Knockdown Center aims to create a radically cross-disciplinary environment. The particularity of our architectural environment and history leads us to gravitate toward projects that demonstrate a sensitive reactivity to site and environment. Visit our website, or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Knockdown Center Media Inquiries

Tara Plath, Communications and Marketing Manager

347.915.5615

tara@knockdowncenter.com

ARUP

GENELEC®