

# **BEYOND VOICE. ME, YOU AND EVERYONE WHO IS LISTENING**

A solo show by Anna Raimondo  
With a critical response by Lucia Farinati

23.04.2014 - 28.06.2014  
opening 23.04.2014 from 6:30 p.m

**ARTE CONTEMPORANEA**  
**BRUXELLES**

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*Beyond Voice* explores the relational horizon of voice and its linguistic and political implications. *Me, you and everyone who is listening* are the implicated subjects of a journey that starts whenever we hear the call. But who is calling?

It has often been said that the voice stands at the intersection of body and language, but this intersection, as Mladen Dolar has remarked, belongs to neither. Although voice can be described in terms of pure sound phenomena (the sound emitted through the cavities of the body) its common (or essential) destination is speech: phonemes, words, sentences, in short, language. Voice can also be understood, in a metaphorical sense, as the process of giving an account of yourself, a gesture, if not a desire, to tell who you are, before telling what you are. Voice is, in this sense, the embodied expression of uniqueness. Beyond linguistic structure and articulation it is always the manifestation of human singularity.

Anna Raimondo has traversed the urban space in order to enter or intrude into others' acoustic territories. She has declaimed her personal statements in the street and collected written encouragements from women that have been inspired by other women. She has created a playlist for a "Gender Karaoke" and also arranged a special mix of arousing sounds that everyone can play and activate through their own portable device. Who is calling here, is the performative voice of the artist, a voice that invokes, interrogates and provokes the other through body gestures, recorded utterances, sonic interventions and linguistic détournements. As the artist states: "I am not interested in the pure sonic dimension of voice, but above all in the implications of voice".

By embracing the very idea of listening as the moment of sharing and inter-subjectivity, this exhibition brings together a new body of video and audio works in which the boundaries of public and private experience are investigated and overturned. Departing from radio and immersing herself in the flow of everyday life, *Beyond Voice* is not a metaphysical journey, the mere solipsistic act of hearing oneself speaking, but an invitation to take part in the complex and contagious process that listening to voice(s) implies. A gesture launched into the air which implicates the listener with his/her own answers and response(abilities).

**Anna Raimondo** is an Italian artist based in Brussels. In 2012, she completed a MA in Sound Arts at the London College of Communication (University of the Arts). Since then, she has been invited to several international exhibitions and festivals including the 5th Marrakech Biennale (Ma); Espace (IM) Media in Sporobole Art Center (Sherbrooke, Ca); Dirty Ear at Errant Bodies (Berlin, De); the public art festival Paraphrasing Babel (Maastricht, Nl); Ruido Branco at the Jacqueline Martins Gallery (São Paulo, Br); the Nouzah Fenia – Festival de Casablanca (Ma). Her radiophonic works have been broadcast in different countries and languages: Kunst Radio (At); Deutschlandradio Kultur (De); ArteRadio (Fr); Rai (It) ; RTBF (Be). Her curatorial projects mainly focus on sound and radio art and have been presented in such venues as the V&A Museum (London, Uk) and Le Cube-Independent Art Room (Rabat, Ma). With Younes Baba-Ali, she co-curates Saout Radio, a platform for sound and radio art based in Morocco. With Amélie Agut, she initiated the itinerant radio project on sonic memories, Echoes. Raimondo's research explores listening as both a political and aesthetic experience, using sound as a tool to create relational spaces. By voice, language and sonic ambulation, in-between performance and interventions in public space, her work proposes a negotiation between verbal and non-verbal communication, while inviting the audience's active involvement.

**Lucia Farinati** (It/Uk) is an independent curator based in London and the Director of Sound Threshold, an interdisciplinary curatorial project that explores the relationships between site, sound and text. She studied on the Curatorial Programme at Goldsmiths College, (London, Uk), Public Art and European Cultural Planning at De Montfort University (Leicester, Uk) and History of Art and Aesthetics at the Faculty of Humanities, University of Trento (It). She has collaborated with many sonic art projects and radio initiatives including Dirty Ear Forum, bip bop, Sound Proof 5, Errant Bodies, Audio Arts, e-Xplo, Resonance 104.4 FM, Institution of Rot, Radio Papesse and Radio Arte Mobile. She co-edited Transmission, a book commissioned by Sound and Music for the 8th edition of the Cut & Splice Festival, London, 2010 and is currently researching and writing The Force of Listening, a book on the role of listening in contemporary conjunctions between art and activism.

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*Beyond Voice* explore l'horizon relationnel de la voix et ses implications linguistiques et politiques. *Me, you and everyone who is listening* sont les sujets d'un parcours qui est amorcé à chaque fois que l'on entend l'appel. Mais qui appelle ?

On dit souvent que la voix se place à l'intersection du corps et du langage, mais cette intersection n'appartient ni à l'un ni à l'autre, comme l'a remarqué Mladen Dolar. Bien que la voix puisse être décrite comme un phénomène purement sonore (le son produit uniquement par les cavités du corps), sa destination usuelle (ou essentielle) est la parole : phonèmes, mots, phrases, langage. La voix peut aussi être entendue métaphoriquement, comme le processus par lequel on rend compte de soi, tel un geste – sinon le désir – de déclarer qui nous sommes, avant de dire ce que nous sommes. En ce sens, la voix incarne notre unicité. Au-delà de l'articulation et de la structure linguistique, elle est le témoin permanent de la singularité humaine.

Anna Raimondo a parcouru l'espace urbain pour entrer, ou s'interposer, dans les territoires acoustiques d'autrui. Elle a déclamé des phrases personnelles dans les rues, elle a recueilli les encouragements écrits par des femmes ayant été inspirées par d'autres femmes. Elle a créé une playlist pour un "Gender Karaoke" ainsi qu'une composition à partir de sons à connotation sexuelle, que quiconque peut écouter et diffuser sur son mp3 ou téléphone portable. L'appel surgit ici au travers de la voix performative de l'artiste, voix qui invoque, interroge, provoque l'autre à travers des mouvements corporels, des déclarations enregistrées, des interventions sonores et des détournements linguistiques. Comme le dit l'artiste, « les implications de la voix m'intéressent plus que sa dimension purement sonore ».

Adoptant l'idée de l'écoute comme expression de partage et d'intersubjectivité, cette exposition rassemble un nouvel ensemble d'œuvres sonores et vidéos qui questionnent et détournent les frontières de l'expérience publique et privée. En partant de la radio pour se plonger dans le flux de la vie quotidienne, *Beyond Voice* ne s'apparente pas à un parcours métaphysique ou à un soliloque, mais plutôt à une invitation à participer au processus complexe et contagieux qu'implique l'écoute de(s) voix. Un geste qui sollicite l'auditeur, ses réponses et ses responsabilités.