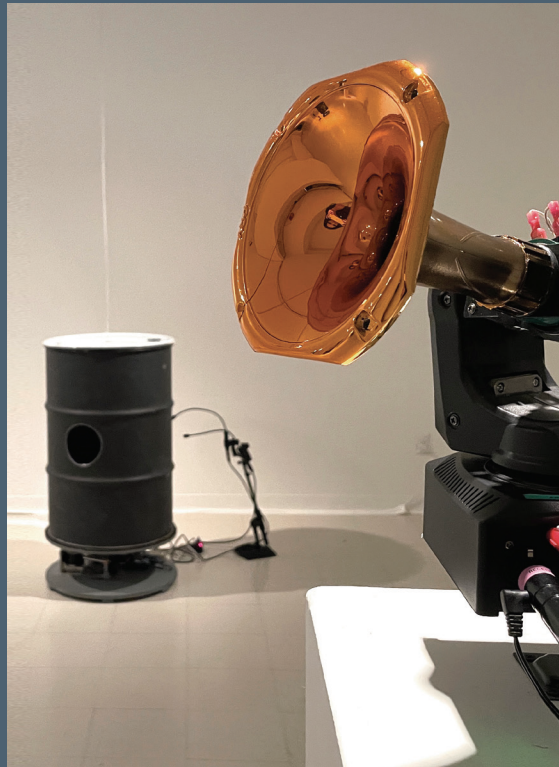
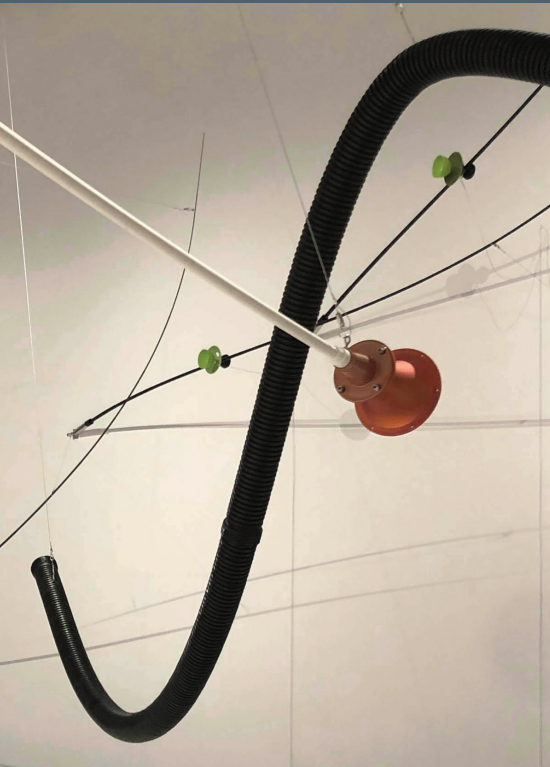


# GESTURES & **CLUSTERS**

*Two Collaborative Soundscapes*



John Driscoll, Phil Edelstein, Cecilia Lopez

COMPOSERS INSIDE ELECTRONICS

November 2, 2024 - February 19, 2025 | Zuccaire Gallery, Stony Brook University



## Introduction

**GESTURES and CLUSTERS** is an immersive installation of two self-running sound art works: *Gestures/Murmurations*, a collaborative work by John Driscoll and Cecilia Lopez, and *Cluster Fields*, a collaboration between John Driscoll and Phil Edelstein. Both works stem from the artists' extensive multidisciplinary backgrounds in electronic music composition and performance, as well as the development of unique instruments, computer software, robotics, sculpture and installation. Original sound scores are created with hundreds of sound files combined with software for focused sound localization and distribution, as well as custom sculptural loudspeakers, including 55-gallon metal drums, plastic pipes, fishing poles, large mica wings and robotic rotating speakers. Each sound installation is specifically tuned to take advantage of the architectural resonances and acoustics of the large open exhibition spaces of the Zuccaire Gallery, while allowing individuals to experience their own soundscapes as they navigate the spaces.

Formed in 1973, **COMPOSERS INSIDE ELECTRONICS (CIE)** is dedicated to the composition and performance of electronic and electro-acoustic music using both software and circuitry designed and constructed by individual composers.



## Artist Biographies

**John Driscoll** is a composer/sound artist who is a founding member of Composers Inside Electronics (CIE) and collaborated on David Tudor's *Rainforest IV* project since 1973. He has toured with: CIE, David Tudor, Phil Edelstein, Douglas Dunn & Dancers, Stephen Petronio Dance Co., and as a solo performer. His work has focused on robotic rotating loudspeaker instruments, compositions and sound installations for unique architectural spaces, and music for dance. He has collaborated with Phil Edelstein on *Rainforest V (variations 1-4)* acquired by MoMA (NYC), Museum der Moderne (Salzburg), Arter Museum (Istanbul) and MAC (Lyon) (2015-2019), and on *Cluster Fields*, a sound installation exhibited at the University of Maryland and the New Bedford Art Museum (2018-2023). His work with unique ultrasonic instruments has resulted in multiple works including a performance work *Speaking in Tongues* and an installation work *Slight Perturbations*. His most recent sound installation collaboration is *Gestures/Mumurations* (2024) with Cecilia Lopez.

**Phil Edelstein** is a composer, media and sound artist living near Boston. He is a founding member of eba (Electronic Body Arts) and Composers Inside Electronics (CIE), which grew out of David Tudor's *Rainforest* project and workshop in 1973. Edelstein's work focuses on interactive gestural, tactile software-based systems & architecture, sound composed & constructed for resonant localized spaces, collaborations dance and theater. He has toured in the US and Europe in recent seasons with Stephen Petronio Dance Co. and a Cunningham/Tudor project for Lyon Opera Ballet. A recent sound installation work triptych *LocaleS*.

was exhibited at Harvestworks. Performances and installations of works include venues such as The Kitchen (NYC), Unexpected Territories (Berlin), MoMA (NYC), Museum der Moderne (Salzburg), Lyon Biennale, MAC (Lyon), Arter Museum (Istanbul), New Bedford Art Museum and others. His collaboration with Driscoll on the sound installation *Rainforest V (variations 1-4)* was acquired for the collections of: MoMA, Museum der Moderne (Salzburg), Arter and MAC.

**Cecilia Lopez** is a composer, musician and multimedia artist from Buenos Aires, Argentina, currently based in New York. She works across the media of performance, sound, installation and the creation of sound devices and systems. Lopez holds an MFA from the Milton Avery Graduate School of the Arts, Bard College and an MA from Wesleyan University in composition (2016). Her work has been performed and exhibited at Museo de Arte Moderno de Buenos Aires (AR), Center for Contemporary Arts (Vilnius, Lithuania), Roulette Intermedium, ISSUE Project Room, Ostrava Days Festival 2011 (Ostrava, Czech Republic), MATA Festival 2012, Experimental Intermedia, Fridman Gallery (NY), Kunstnernes Hus (Oslo, Norway) and the XIV Cuenca Biennial, among others. She was a Civitella Ranieri fellow in 2015 and has participated in various international residency programs. In 2019, Lopez curated the intermedia festival Folly Systems co-produced by Roulette Intermedium and Outpost Artists Resources that featured 11 international artists. Collaborators include Carmen Baliero, Aki Onda, Brandon Lopez, John Driscoll, Carrie Schneider and Lars Laumann among others.



Cluster Fields, Zuccaire Gallery

# Gestures/Murmurations

**Cecilia Lopez and John Driscoll**

*Gestures/Murmurations* is a self-running collaborative sound installation by composers/sound artists Cecilia Lopez and John Driscoll conceived in 2022 and realized in 2024. Both artists have been fascinated with physically rotating sound and its impact upon sonic reflections. Driscoll has had a long history of developing robotic rotating loudspeaker systems and Lopez has created works for rotating 55-gallon drum speakers. After a performance together they decided to collaborate on a new work using a combination of Driscoll's recent multi-axis rotating speakers and two of Lopez's rotating drum speakers.

As a site-based installation, the work changes depending upon the acoustic spaces it is installed in and is tuned to each space to optimize the moving sound architecture with both a visual and sonic choreography. The audience is encouraged to move through an ever-evolving soundscape.



# Cluster Fields

**John Driscoll and Phil Edelstein**

*Cluster Fields* (2018-2024) is an evolving collaborative sound installation work by John Driscoll and Phil Edelstein that has grown out of their work with David Tudor's *Rainforest*. A series of modular suspended sound objects have been developed as a visual and sonic compositional structure. Each cluster is constructed from a selected archetype: cantilevered globes with focused speaker horns, dual resonant mica wings, pleated plastic pipes and resonant fishing poles. Each cluster consists of two to four sound objects.

These sculptural objects are activated with audio transducers, horn drivers, and small conventional loudspeakers. Each cluster forms a multi-channel speaker array that creates focused sound fields that visitors walk through that transform over time. The clusters are arranged around a gallery/museum space. There is an overall orchestration that allows the objects to sound both individually and together, offering a rich sonic space for audience exploration in and around the clusters. The initial version of the work was commissioned and premiered at the University of Maryland in January 2018.



# Acknowledgements

It is an honor to present the collaborative work of John Driscoll, Phil Edelstein and Cecilia Lopez. These artists were involved with the presentation of David Tudor/ Composers Inside Electronics' *Rainforest V (variation I)* and performance of *Forest Speech* at the Museum of Modern Art (2019-2020). This breathtaking visual and sonic experience inspired me to invite them to create two installations at the Zuccaire Gallery. I thank the artists for the process of creating and presenting their compelling and engaging work and for sharing it with the Stony Brook University community.

My appreciation also to the staff of the Staller Center for the Arts, especially Director Alan Inkle, the Staller Production team, and Zuccaire Gallery Public Programs Manager Georgia LaMair Tomczak, as well as our student gallery assistants.

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