

Specious¹ Dialogue

Description

Specious Dialogue consists of a pair of movable, sculptural forms. One records, and the other emits, audio. The forms are hollow concrete cubes of approximately 300mm that house battery powered wireless speaker and microphone systems respectively. Mounted on pairs of swivel castors the forms will be able to be pushed, rolled, kicked and shoved around in the space they inhabit.

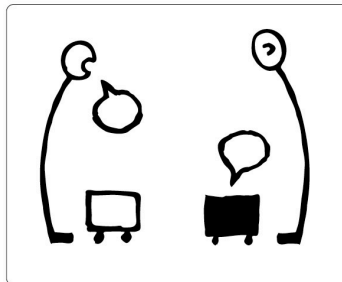
They will play a multitude of roles; intervening in other artworks, lurking in corners, spying on reception, shouting at visitors, rolling into walls. The forms are designed to be played with within the exhibition space - they can be silenced by a coat, be placed together in a feedback loop, or cleverly used to relay messages to other visitors. However they are encountered, they will expect to be touched or moved in some way, at the very least they will want to be listened or spoken to.

In addition to allowing interaction, the two forms have an agenda and dialogue of their own. A sensor system enables the forms to know their positions in relation to each other. This distance between them affects their dialogue, turning the live recordings into twisted fragments and untruths – turning it into **Specious Dialogue**. Volume, distortion and tempo will alter capriciously. The forms may be excited when together and lonesome when apart, reflecting this in their output.

Sound comes from many moving objects – more so than static objects. However, the majority of the time we purposefully listen to sound, it is played from a static point - a fixed speaker, a TV set, a radio. This work encourages the listener to place the recording device and the output device wherever they want - changing the environment's sound. This physical interaction with the objects permits the listener to become a choreographer; moving the sound, catching it, passing it to someone else. It is expected that the forms will spark play, interrupt conversations and generally get in the way.

The compositions that will be output will be always changing combinations of pre-recorded sampled sounds combined with the live sound input. Pre-recorded samples will include field recordings and vocal noises, both animal and human.

The work plays on the simple premise of record and playback but with a devious twist, what you hear is not what was heard. The message purposely converted by a lonely lover or a clinging sibling, depending on how the forms 'feel'.



¹ *specious* - plausible but false; Having the ring of truth or plausibility but actually fallacious; Deceptively attractive; Apparently good or right though lacking real merit.