CART212: Digital Media Studio I: Winter 2020

## The Sonic Archive

## of Feeling

Project 1: a musique concrète composition)  
Delivery: January 27/30 (worth 15% of the final grade)

*an archive of feelings… is an exploration of cultural texts as repositories of feelings and emotions, which are encoded not only in the content of the texts themselves but in the practices that surround their production and reception (Ann Cvetkovich*, An Archive of Feelings: Trauma, Sexuality and Lesbian Public Culture*, 7)*

Your “sonic archive of feelings” will approach cultural texts as aural and mostly nonverbal forms, through the collection and aesthetic transformation of sound samples remixed to express a personal and subjective experience of a specific place and time.

## // DESCRIPTION

Students will take pictures and sample (record) a large number of sounds of a specific IRL place.

They will then create 30-40 sec sound composition evoking that place’s aural and emotional ambience.

The final submission includes

* the final composition;
* a picture that illustrates the place evokes;
* a short text written to offer commentary on the work.

## // SPECIFICATIONS

The chosen location has to be a *specific* place with a physical location (not “the streets” or “the metro”).

All sounds used must be recorded at that place. Students may modify and distort their recordings, but pre-recorded sound is prohibited. **Students may be asked to provide their original recordings.**

* The sound composition must be an expression of the student’s sense of the place.
* The sound composition must have a beginning, middle, and end.
* The sound composition will be reused as the soundtrack for Project 2

## // SCHEDULE

January 6/9: launch of project

January 7 - 26: recording, photography, editing

January 27/30: initial in-progress work (at least 80% complete) is due at the beginning of class

in-class lab for getting instructor feedback and the refining the final submission

January 28/31 midnight: final submission due in the Dropbox of the CDA Class share

## // COMPLETION AND DELIVERY

The sound (an MP3 file attachment), the picture, and the commentary will be submitted in a folder or .zip file to the section Dropbox on the CDA class share. **All submissions must be made to the class share in a folder identified by your name and project#, eg. akikogonzales\_project1**

## // COMMENTARY

The commentary (300-500 words) should explain significant parts of the creation process including the choice of place and samples, the inspiration guiding the mix, the intended aesthetic experience, any technical or artistic challenges and how they were overcome, as well as considerations regarding lessons learned and alternative approaches they would take in the future.

CHOICE OF PLACES AND SAMPLES:

McGill Eaton Centre on Ste-Catherine

Coffee Shop in Indigo

Book area in Indigo Bookstore

The inspiration guiding the mix:

A semi-childhood sweetheart

The intended aesthetic experience:

Old person reminiscing a good romance past and gone, wondering about

the future and what happened to the significant other, all while getting lost in books during summer time. The chosen locale being a library, reading with said romance person…

Any technical or artistic challenges:

Never done that before

STE-CATHERINE’S INDIGO BOOKSTORE

THEME: Childhood sweetheart

Cool effect: Heartbeat sound

## // EVALUATION\*

Criteria include:

* **Technical quality**: the work has no unintentional glitches and buzzes, is layered and complex; the work demonstrates advanced techniques and/or risk taking
* **Expressive quality**: the work conveys the aural and emotional atmosphere of the chosen locale as described in the text, and has a compositional arc that generates interest and a sense of completeness (i.e. has a beginning, climax, and conclusion)
* **Insight**: demonstrates critical thinking, self-reflection and an articulate explanation of the creative process

Each criterion will receive a letter grade corresponding to the official scale and their average will produce the end result.

Penalties for late submissions are 1 letter grade per day late.

\*Please refer to the CART212 Evaluation Guide for a more detailed explanation regarding how work is evaluated.

## // TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

* Photography (dslr cameras)
* Headphones (if possible, avoid using earbuds)
* Sound recording (wav recorders)
* Sound editing (Premiere, Audition or Audacity)
* Resources: CDA Depot, Edit Rooms & Open Access Labs
* online tutorials: eg. for noise reduction in Premiere <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PiG9-GBcc7E>

## //INSPIRATION & RESOURCES

Pierre Schaeffer, Études de bruits (1948)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CTf0yE15zzI>

John Cage, Williams Mix, (1952/53)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ql4Ophbt7k>

François Bayle,  L'oiseau chanteur (1963)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XgGPuu4-gA8>

Samuel Thulin City Ditties

<http://www.agencetopo.qc.ca/detours/cityditties_en.html>

Sound Fields: Adventures in contemporary field recording <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=esfUwg1-xrI>

The Sound of Life: What is a Soundscape:

<https://folklife.si.edu/talkstory/the-sound-of-life-what-is-a-soundscape>

The Sound of Life: The Making of a Soundscape:

<https://folklife.si.edu/talkstory/the-sound-of-life-the-making-of-a-soundscape>

Soundscape & Sound Art resources (in French:

<https://desartsonnants.wordpress.com/>

LES VOISINS, Proximity Concerts:

https:/[/www.youtube.com/watch?v=ID0EE7SH3RI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ID0EE7SH3RI)

UbuWeb Sound:

<http://www.ubu.com/sound/>

see also examples of previous submissions in the class share.