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# STAALPLAAT SOUNDSYSTEM

Dutch sound artists in residence at LACE

20 February – 1 March, 2012



Clockwise from top left: Audience members participating in *fluxYOU*, Kiel, 2011. *Yokomono* installation, 2008. Staalplaat members performing *Yokomono*, 2008. Kids workshop participant.

LOS ANGELES – January 26, 2012 – **LACE (Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions)** will host Dutch sound artist collective **Staalplaat Soundsystem** for a 10 day residency 20 Feb. – 1 March 2012. Within the current mood of worshipping the latest technology in media art, **Staalplaat Soundsystem** provides a breath of fresh air, reminding us of the 100-year tradition of noise-making machines, in which “mad” inventors and various kinds of artists operating in the margins of the art world meet. During their residency Staalplaat members **Geert-Jan Hobijn** and **Carlo Crovato** will construct a site specific, interactive sound installation that will also serve as the focal point for a participatory sound performance. They will also lead a two-day youth workshop, culminating in a concert.

Using “everyday electronic junk” scavenged from thrift stores and donations, Hobijn and Crovato will fashion new “sound machines” that will be controllable by the audience via smartphones. As the residency proceeds the artists will create and add more machines to an ever-growing installation in LACE’s main gallery space. In the final phase of the residency they will re-locate the installation to the storefront space and set it up so that LACE visitors and the general public can conduct the “orchestra” via their mobile phone both inside and outside from the Walk of Fame.

The Staalplaat Soundsystem workshop will teach that neither expensive digital devices nor instruments are needed to make great music. At the core of the workshop is the idea of avoiding “copying” or “rebuilding” devices and instruments that already exist, instead embarking on a “research & development quest” for new sound sources and



noise-making devices; quite similar to their own working methods: to play, experiment, test, trial and error. They will demonstrate that with a little bit of research and some playful modifications, a unique sonic laboratory can easily be created in anyone’s kitchen or garage. The two-day workshop will culminate in a performance by all participants, conducted by Hobijn and Crovato.

**Staalplaat Residency Calendar**

Feb. 25-26	all day	Youth Workshop
Feb. 26	7-9pm	Youth Workshop Concert (open to the public)
Feb. 27	7-9pm	Staalplaat Soundsystem Performance (open to the public)

**ABOUT STAALPLAAT SOUNDSYSTEM**

Since its inception in 2000, Staalplaat Soundsystem has started creating a multitude of “machine installations” using all manner of consumer electronics, such as a dozen floor polishers (*Sweet Sissy and the Ballroom Hiss*), and *Avantilator*, a composition for one hundred electric office fans. At the heart of this work is a low-tech philosophy: to make installations appear simple, revealing rather than concealing how they are made.

Artists participating in the LACE residency include Staalplaat Soundsystem founder **Geert-Jan Hobijn** and **Carlo Crovato**. Staalplaat Soundsystem has been showing works at several international festivals, museums, galleries and events like Avanto (Helsinki), Sonar (Barcelona), 798 South Gate space (Beijing), DEAF (Rotterdam), Transmediale (Berlin), DOM (Moscow), Ars Electronica (Linz), Todaysart (Den Haag), MOCA Taipei, Museum Weserburg (Bremen), Townhouse Gallery (Cairo), Steirischer Herbst ( Graz), ZKM (Karlsruhe), Palais de Tokyo (Paris), Khoj International Artists (New Dehli), and Auditorium (Rome).

**ABOUT LACE**

LACE champions and challenges the art of our time by fostering artists who innovate, explore, and risk. We move within and beyond our four walls to provide opportunities for diverse publics to engage deeply with contemporary art. In doing so, we further dialogue and participation between and among artists and those audiences. [www.welcometolace.org](http://www.welcometolace.org)

**SUPPORT**

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