

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

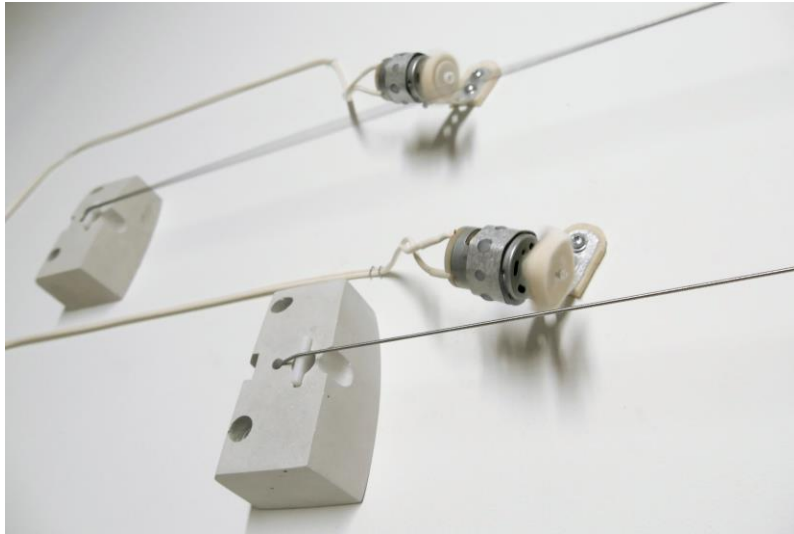
December 2018

Media Contact:

Daly Arnett 312.787.3997

hdarnett@artsclubchicago.org

Thessia Machado: *Toward the Unsound*
January 23 – April 27, 2019



Opening: January 23rd, 6:00 pm, Free and open to all

Performance Marathon: April 26th 3 - 9 pm feat. Thessia Machado, Viola Yip, Merche Blasco, and Pedro Lopes

CHICAGO, IL — The Arts Club of Chicago is pleased to present works by the New York-based sonic/visual artist Thessia Machado (b. 1967, Brazil). Her first solo institutional exhibition, entitled *Toward the Unsound*, highlights Machado's interest in the materiality of sound and the act of translation. The exhibition displays sculptural works about sound and sounding works as sculpture, including a room-scaled, self-playing electronic instrument and a 133-piece felt *spectrogram*. It will culminate in an evening marathon of responsive, durational performances featuring four artists—Thessia Machado, Viola Yip, Merche Blasco, and Pedro Lopes—on April 26th.

As a composer and builder of instruments, Machado writes for electronic circuits while considering deeply the unbounded relationship between sound and its surroundings. Machado's original training as a sculptor is evident in her attention to the construction of hand-made instruments, often comprised of found materials and circuits, whose wiring and components are displayed as functional artworks. Her work for The Arts Club moves between finding graphic form for auditory experience and allowing data to generate resonant tones.

Machado's practice is rooted in what she calls "the sound of physics," where she mines electronic or unremarkable noise for "poetic content" and draws it out. Her work in *Toward the Unsound* reacts to the galleries at The Arts Club, both in its composition and conservation throughout the run of the exhibition. Works such as *Transient Modes & Antinodes*—shown for the first time in this exhibition—will subtly change over time, according to the impact that slight environmental shifts will have on the tuning of wall-mounted bass strings. For *Contents: ACC*, Machado has collected numerical “facts” about the Club and translated them into tonal frequencies that the audience encounters corporeally through headphones. Other works, such as *River Reverb* use tactile materials to depict sound phenomena. Sounding and visual works are presented together in counterpoint, each contributing to, reflecting upon, and infiltrating the other.

A catalogue designed by Sonnenzimmer will be published on the occasion of the exhibition. It features an essay by curator Jenna Lyle in addition to a Sound Appendix featuring studio recordings of the works in the exhibition, as well as collateral recordings by Machado.

Thessia Machado (b. Brazil, 1967) lives and works in New York City. Machado's installations and video pieces have been exhibited in New York, London, Philadelphia, Paris, Amsterdam, Dublin, Berlin, and Athens. She has been awarded residencies at Homesession, Barcelona; the NARS Foundation, NY; I-Park; MacDowell Colony; Yaddo; the Atlantic Center for the Arts; the Irish Museum of Modern Art; and the Vermont Studios Center. She is a recipient of fellowships from the New York Foundation for the Arts, The Experimental Television Center, The Bronx Museum, and the American Academy in Berlin. In 2017, she was a recipient of an Artists Grant from the Foundation for Contemporary Arts.

Image credit: *Transient Modes & Antinodes*, 2018. Cast cement, bass strings & tuning gears, DC motors, felt, Arduino microcontroller, custom circuit, wire. Variable dimensions. Each string module approx.. 46 x 8 x 3 in.

About The Arts Club: Since 1916, The Arts Club of Chicago has been a preeminent exhibitor of international art, a forum for established and emerging artists, and a celebrated venue for performers from around the world. For over 100 years, The Arts Club has opened its membership to artists and patrons of the arts, and its exhibitions to the public. At its inaugural meeting, the mission of the Club was defined as: “to encourage higher standards of art, maintain galleries for that purpose, and to promote the mutual acquaintance of art lovers and art workers.”

The Arts Club of Chicago is located at 201 East Ontario Street. Exhibitions are free and open to the public. Gallery hours are Tuesday- Friday 11:00 am - 6:00 pm, and Saturday 11:00 am - 3:00 pm. ph: (312) 787-3997; email: information@artsclubchicago.org www.artsclubchicago.org