

Project Summary

Topologies is a site-specific sound capturing event in the City of Rahway, NJ that will generate *topologies* through listening, looking, moving and marking. Drawings will be made by moving-with the sounds of the city and will become maps that will introduce possibilities for new urban movement. Using *The Acoustics of Objects*, materials as sound will be activated to become an agency in the making of the city. Temporarily, a new perception of the city will be created.

Project Description

SOUND EXPLORATIONS [sound is location]

I have explored sound as a trigger for movement, and the relationship between our body and sound. Listening for me, has always been more of a corporeal experience rather than an acoustic one. Using drawing, I have mapped sounds in nature and live concerts, exploring how body-sound coupling happens. How do body and sound fold, move and mark? The initial drawings looked like subterranean water maps, and consisted of a continuing line swirling over and over again, sometimes stretching and filling up the whole paper. In nature, I have mapped the movements of the ocean waves, at times looking and at times listening. The sound of water had a trajectory and location. Location meant a place, a point in time, a direction, a trigger, a distance, a place of arrival and departure. Location meant *time: duration as experience*.

SOUND EXPLORATIONS [Acoustics of Objects and CAPTURES]

Acoustics of objects is an idea I have been developing, on sound in material. Every material comes with its own perception; I call it *The Acoustics of Objects*. When working with moving-with-sound, I started relating each particular sound to a material, for example: Piano sound mark is made with something soft, fluid (as water). While observing a whole composition, sound materialized in: silk, fish thread, water, soft brush, more water, drops of water and oil, soft and dull scratching/body movement, underlining it all is water, soft rocks, soft waves and wind. When the sound of piano is water, and bass sound is leather, materials and sound share the same properties in senses. Material and sound are actively participating in choreographing space with their volume, texture, surfaces, weight. Later, I took the moving-with-sound to my backyard, where I mapped the sounds of birds, airplanes, leaf blowers, and started calling the drawings: CAPTURE. CAPTURE were not only drawings, but also recordings, replays, photographs, and sculptural pieces. CAPTURE drawings became maps that resembled topologies. What kind of topology can sound make? What happens if we fold, bend, materialize these topologies?

SOUND TOPOLOGIES [RAHWAY,NJ]

The specific area of exploration will be Irving Street starting from the Rahway Arts District Park to the Train Station. The first step of the process will be making recordings and drawings of sounds, as well as photographs of *soundy* materials to start investigate the new *Topologies*. The new drawings will become maps and have a potential to change the way we move in urban environments, parks, and create new ways to arrive to form and direction in perception. Rahway *Topologies* will take part in the 2017 Rahway Arts District Programming.

Project Goal

The City of Rahway is an urban setting that is close to a suburban area, where we can find intersecting sounds of nature and the urban environment. Urban spaces are transitional spaces, in and out spaces, where humans, goal oriented fast movers, work toward permanence, but their multiple orientations turn the urban areas into *transitional areas*. The speed of our vision changes based on our orientation and goal. In nature, our perception becomes more acute and active, we use our body to navigate, balance, listen, look, touch. Spaces of nature are spaces of full body experience. Spaces of nature are spaces that are alive, with an acute perception of active agencies.

Rahway is Happening, is the tagline of Rahway, NJ. The city is becoming more and more of a cultural platform through the presence of the Union County Performing Art Center and the initiatives of the Rahway's Arts District. The goal of the project is to bring a new way of activating a city through art, that does not only consist of bringing artwork to a conventional gallery, but creates an active event between the city its people and the work it makes.

The event will start by adding new forms of sound that will be inserted on Irving Street. These forms and maps will be new ways of focused listening/looking. To *hear* the new topologies, the audience will have to follow the map, or follow the forms/sound inserted. Listening will not only happen through using hearing senses but also by using visual texture. Being that each individual experience is different, each individual listening and following will become a new *topology*.

The physical drawings will be exhibited in the old building of the Arts Guild of NJ, and also kept for new potential proposals for public works in Rahway. The exhibit will be open to the Rahway residents and will introduce a new idea of the city. To think of sound as an event, as a happening is to think how sounds of the city change or can change our idea of a city/place.

Biographical Information

Irena Pejovic (b. 1981, Gevgelija, Macedonia; lives and works in Cranford, NJ) received her BFA and MFA from Montclair State University. Pejovic makes events that go beyond the visual realm, choreographing movements that turn the audience into an explorer of a world that is active and becoming—as a set of unfolding relationships—in a way that they have not before. In her work, the audience is moving-sensing, using vision, sound, navigation, feeling texture, color, scale, being both mobile and immobile. The work, the space and the viewer take an equal part in the making of the events.

Recent solo exhibitions include Galerija AMAM, Gevgelija, Macedonia; Galerija Karas, Zagreb, Croatia; Gallery MC, New York, NY; and Gallery Aferro, Newark, NJ. Selected group exhibitions include: 2016, *Transart Triennale*, Manila Philippines and Berlin, Germany, *Filmideo*, Index Art Center and Newark Museum, Newark, NJ; 2015. *Forms of Repetition*, Glasshouse Artlifelab, Brooklyn, NY, an evening dedicated to durational performances.; *dirt-e*, Central Booking, New York City, curated by Ben Davis; 2014. *Sliver*, Index Art Center, Newark, NJ, USA; 2013. *Stars in My Pocket like Grains of Sand*, curated by Jayson Keeling, Lower East Side Printshop, New York City; *New Print Show*, Bushwick Print Lab, Brooklyn, NY; 2012. *Legacy* Printmaking Center of New Jersey, Branchburg, NJ.

Irena Pejovic was part of SWIM, a theatre piece by Robert Whitman. Recent residencies and research projects include 2015 and 2016 research on Lefkada and Milos Island in Greece; 2012 Artist in Residence at London Print Studio, London, UK. In 2012, she served as a member of the Board of Directors at the Printmaking Center of New Jersey. Her work is included in the Contemporary Print Collection of the Museum of Arts and Crafts (Muzej za Umjetnost i Obrt), in Zagreb, Croatia. Pejovic was awarded the *2013 Step Beyond Travel Grant* from the European Cultural Foundation, the *2014, 2015 Exhibition Grant and 2016 Publishing Grant* from the City of Gevgelija, Macedonia. She is the recipient of the 2014 *UMD John L. N. Bitove, C.M. Macedonian Heritage Scholarship Award*.

Budget Proposal:

Irena Pejovic, Proposed Budget for Topologies	
Item description	Cost
Black Fabric/Paper, Roll (Around 200 yards - wholesale)	\$350
Scissors, 2 @ \$4.43	\$8.86
Printed Photographs on PVC, Approximately 10 photographs, in various sizes/\$60-\$120 each	\$1,000
Yasutomo Black Sumi Ink (Bokuju) 12 oz./ \$14.33/ 1 pcs	\$14.33
Alluminum Sheeting/Roll x 5	\$200.00
China Markers/ \$0.86/ 30 markers	\$21.90
Chawk	\$10.25
Plexy Glass for Mounting, 4 large	\$400
Sketch books and other paper	\$150
Speakers/ \$15.40 each/ 6 pcs	\$92.40
Media Players/Recorders for Sound / Used Ipods / 6 pcs/ ebay: \$50 each	\$300
Other tools as X-acto, Cutting Board, Miscellaneous Hardware	\$150
NJ Sales Tax 7%:	\$189
Total Cost:	\$2,698

Artists funds: \$400

Requesting from the Puffin Foundation: \$2298