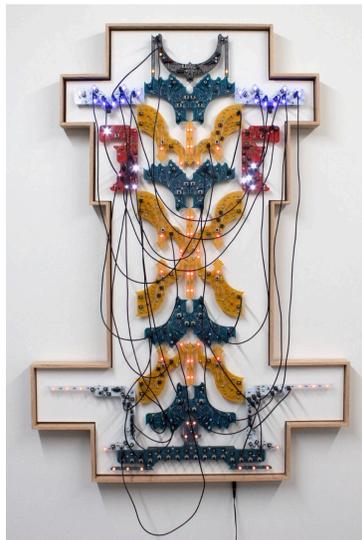


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2023

**The Montclair State University Galleries Announces
Inaugural *Sound Booth* Exhibition Series with Brian Oakes**

New and recent works by Brian Oakes transform an annex to the George Segal Gallery into an environment for deep listening.

On View September 14, 2023 – May 10, 2024



Brian Oakes, *Untitled Sound System 11*, Printed circuit boards, jumper cables and wooden panel; 52 ¾ x 36 ¼ x 5 inches, 2021

Montclair, NJ — The Montclair State University Galleries announces *Sound Booth*, a new series of sound installations outside the entrance to the George Segal Gallery. Artist Brian Oakes will be the first artist in this series, bringing together sculpture, sound, and lighting to create an immersive environment for deep listening. *Sound Booth – Brian Oakes* will be on display from September 14, 2023 – May 10, 2024.

Oakes designs and produces his own circuit boards as the main material for his sound and light sculptures using a “do it yourself” approach. Through system-generated light and sound, these sculptures reveal how the mechanical components of computer-based technology work and function. The circuit boards include unique shapes with components arranged in specific patterns and etched designs that serve both aesthetic and functional purposes. They present a symbolic language reminiscent of ancient runes and function with electrical currents traveling across the symbols and patterns. Oakes’ circuit boards offer a kind of technological divination related to occult and esoteric forms of knowledge production, where electrical impulses pass through symbols and bodies bringing the artwork to life.

Oakes’ *Untitled Sound System 11*, is made up of 14 circuit boards creating a sonic sculpture that can be modulated using knobs redirecting the intensity of the electrical signals altering the sounds and LED lights that flash as the sculpture emits sound. The installation also features lighting fixtures designed by

Oakes made with custom circuit boards, LED light chains, and other materials similar to *Untitled Sound System II*. Together, the *Sound Booth* installation allows for an opportunity to intimately observe and listen deeply to the internal landscapes of computer-based machines.

This exhibition is curated by Jesse Bandler Firestone, Curator and Exhibition Coordinator at Montclair State University Galleries.

Digital Engagement

The University Galleries is a proud partner of [Bloomberg Connects](#), the free arts and culture app created by Bloomberg Philanthropies. The Bloomberg Connects app, available for download from Google Play or the App Store, makes the University Galleries accessible for both onsite or offsite visits through photo, audio and video features that offer insights into past and current exhibitions from artists, curators, professors, students, and more. The Galleries' joins over 200 cultural organizations around the world with exclusive digital guides on Bloomberg Connects.

Gallery Hours

Tuesday – Friday, 12 – 4 p.m.

Open on select Saturdays of the month and by appointment.

Opening Reception

Thursday, September 14, 2023

5 – 7 p.m.

Segal Gallery

Celebrate the opening of Montclair State University Galleries Fall 2023 exhibitions *The Backend*, *Case Studies: Joseph Parra – the edge of flesh and blood*, and *Sound Booth – Brian Oakes*

6 p.m.

Remarks by Director Megan C. Austin, Dean Daniel Gurskis, and Curator Jesse Bandler Firestone

[Register on Eventbrite](#)

About The Montclair State University Galleries

The Montclair State University Galleries brings together ideas, perspectives, and dialogues to foster curiosity and shared understandings through art. The University Galleries presents diverse and inclusive exhibitions and programs creating connections that unite the campus experience with local and global communities. www.montclair.edu/galleries

All exhibitions and programs are free and open to the public.

Social Media

Join the conversation on social media by tagging @montclairstategalleries and using the hashtag #MontclairStateGalleries when posting.

Support

This exhibition is made possible, in part, by funds from the McMullen Family Foundation, the College of the Arts, and private contributions.

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