



Xing
presents

Tuesday 28 November 10 pm

VICTORIA SHEN
Evicshen

sound performance
BLANK SOUNDS Institute of Listening

Raum
Via Ca' Selvatica 4/d Bologna

Tuesday 28 November 2023 at 10 pm **Xing** presents at **Raum**, for the first time in Bologna, the experimental music performer and sound artist **Victoria Shen** with a sound performance for turntables, needle nails, modular synthesizers and self-built electronics, titled like her nom de guerre: ***Evicshen***. This is the third event of the **BLANK SOUNDS Institute of Listening**.

BLANK SOUNDS Institute of Listening is a new per-formative form that focuses on listening as a practice, experience and resource crossing sound, space and movement. It is one of the Nomadic Institutes conceived by Xing in the post-pandemic era in dialogue with important protagonists of the contemporary art scene, with the aim of creating moments of reflection, study, production and transfer of innovative practices in the field of Live Arts.

Evicshen is a sound performance by Victoria Shen manipulating records and materials of all kinds, which could oscillate between moments of restraint and swells of frenetic and confrontational movement. A noise act full of unpredictable inventions and transgressions; a tightrope walk between control and chance. Eschewing conventions in harmony and rhythm in favor of extreme textures and gestural tones, Shen uses what she calls 'chaotic sound' to oppose signal and information, eluding traditionally embedded meaning. "Noise can be thought of as a modernist approach to sound, insofar it traffics in pure abstraction, but it needs supplemental context." Her personal identity, her body, is the space her work utilizes to restructure sonic meaning. In her live performances, she proposes an exploration between meaning and non-meaning through the physical activation of noise tropes. Her probing into these melodic voids interrogate the ways we perceive value within aural experiences. The appendage-like instruments and objects she makes, exemplify Shen's ability to embody through sound her interest in the tension created by opposition: control and chaos, the unique and the mass produced, the practical and the absurd.

Victoria Shen (aka Evicshen) is a sound artist, experimental music performer, and instrument-maker based in San Francisco. Shen's sound practice is concerned with the spatiality/physicality of sound and its relationship to the human body. Her music features analog modular synthesizers, vinyl/resin records, and self-built electronics. Her multimedia practice extends beyond musical composition and performance to include installation and non-traditional methods of distribution. Her DIY approach to deconstructing the concepts of "materiality, value and mass production" both integrate and re-contextualize the formats of the readymade and assemblage techniques. For example, the album art for her debut LP, *Hair Birth*, utilizes copper to transform the cover into a loudspeaker through which the record can be played. In 2021, Shen produced a series of cut-up records in cast resin embedded with found materials, functioning not only as playable music media but as unique art objects. For recent performances, she pioneered the use of *Needle Nails*, acrylic nails with embedded turntable styluses, which allow her to play up to 5 tracks of a record at once. *Needle Nails*, *Levitating speaker*, and her *Noise Combs* are some of the objects created by her as part of an extensive repertoire of innovations in the design of sound augmentation. These sculptural elements invite the viewer to unpack one's relationship with the material possibilities for creating sound. She has performed solo across North America, Japan, Mexico, and Europe, and in Europe as a member of a turntable trio with Mariam Rezaei and Maria Chavez, as a member of hip hop group 1 Above Minus Underground, and as a collaborator with the Kronos Quartet. Some notable venues in which she has performed include Boston City Hall, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, ISSUE Project Room New York, DOMMUNE Tokyo, Petreon Sculpture Park Cyprus, MUNCH Museum Oslo, and Museo d'Arte Orientale Turin. Shen has also been an artist in residence at Elektronmusikstudion EMS Stockholm, WORM Rotterdam, Kurimanzutto New York, The Royal Danish Academy Copenhagen, and AUDIUM San Francisco, Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts Omaha, and Headlands Center for the Arts. Shen currently works at the Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics Stanford and School of Visual Arts New York.
<https://evicshen.com>

Partners: Regione Emilia-Romagna, Comune di Bologna. Media Partners: Edizioni Zero, ATPdiary, NEU Radio.

Xing/Raum info

Via Ca' Selvatica 4/d - Bologna - I
info@xing.it

www.xing.it

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Xing press

mob +39.339.1503608 press@xing.it