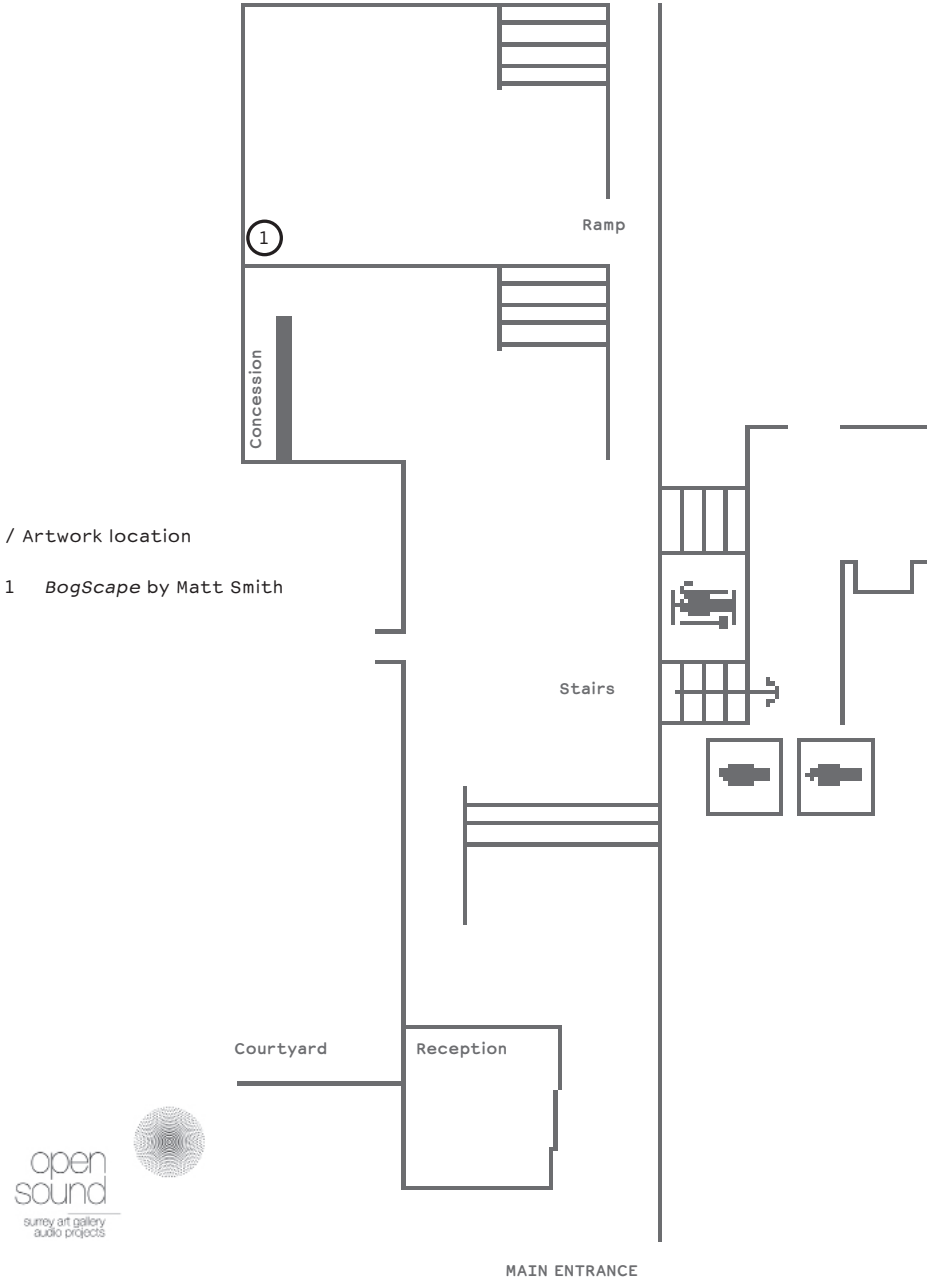


Open Sound 2014:
Sonorous Kingdom
Surrey Art Gallery



BogScape by Matt Smith

Map



Matt Smith BogScape, 2014

/ About the artwork:

Surrey-based Matt Smith creates a 'naturalistic' sound installation based on data gathering systems, such as weather monitoring station data and traffic counters, located in or near Burns Bog. The artist then translates the data, including estimated cellular transmissions, into sound using foley sound effects. The resulting soundtrack is pleasant and relaxing but clearly artificial. The ever fluctuating sounds are reminiscent of the constantly shifting bog that the source is emanating from. Yet, the more abrasive sounds connected by the artist to the cellphone traffic, makes evident the invisible communications produced by humans that increasingly encroach on the natural world. *BogScape*, invites the listener to reconsider the limits of landscape, and the relationship between information and nature.

/ Artist's statement:

When I was a teenager in Vienna in the early nineties I had the privilege to guide world-famous sound-artist Bill Fontana through that city for a few days as he recorded binaural ambient soundscapes in the city. It was a formative experience, as it required me to be quiet for hours on end – a state that does not come naturally to me at all, to say the least – and to learn to listen properly, if I was to somehow grasp what this strange fellow was up to. It was my first exposure to the idea of the soundscape, as it is understood by the Sound Ecology movement in a literal and conceptual way. Ever since I have been drawn back to the soundscape as an idea, and have used recorded and live ambient soundscapes in my radio and audio work – with this work I want to add the layer of our artificial environment to the mix, somehow reflect how our constant electromagnetic emissions permeate everything, also the otherwise undisturbed bog, even though we cannot physically sense them.



/ About the Artist:

Matt Smith has been involved in media arts since the 1990s. While working for the Ars Electronica Center in Linz, Austria he co-founded the loose collective of technicians and artists, FirstFloor Electronix in 1995. Since arriving in Vancouver in 1998, he has collaborated in a wide variety of art projects as an artist and/or technician. Between 2002 and 2007 he also co-hosted the highly experimental FirstFloorRadioshow on CITR in Vancouver, and produced sound-art and radio shows for international broadcast. Personal milestones are the founding and operation of the Artist Run Limousine between 2002-2005, which spawned a series of international productions of "Audiomobile" between 2003-2009. As a member of the Second Site Collective, Matt created an environmental sound piece, also using his remote-sensing software, at Sun Yat Sen Garden this spring. Most recently a solo-show in the summer of 2013 at CSA in Vancouver featured photography related works from 2008 to 2013. Matt is also a senior audiovisual technician for the Vancouver Art Gallery and a freelance technology consultant regularly working for artists and institutions around the Lower Mainland and internationally.

BogScape is the first of three art installations as part of Open Sound 2014: *Sonorous Kingdom*, an sound art exhibition that examines the relationship between vegetation and sound. Other participating artists are Stephanie Loveless (New York) and Paul Walde (Victoria).

Open Sound 2014: *Sonorous Kingdom* is part of a Surrey Art Gallery exhibition program that was developed in 2008 to support the production and presentation of audio art forms as part of contemporary art practice. Open Sound seeks to feature the leading edge of audio art, and has included site specific installation, radio experiments, ecological practices, and other investigations into the limits of sound today. It is made possible with the ongoing support of the City of Surrey, the Canada Council of the Arts and the BC Arts Council.



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