

Busy Day

For Busy Day, originally conceived for French Radio program WebSYNadio (2014), Berlin-based artists Christine Sun Kim and Thomas Benno Mader invited 24 participants to contribute by recording the busiest hour of their day. Participants' files were then compiled as a 24 hour long play list titled «Busy Day» along with a description of each individual hour.

Participants

00. Taeyoon Choi, Artist/Teacher
www.taeyoonchoi.com

01. Bill Dietz, Composer
www.tutorialdiversions.org

02. Matana Roberts, Musician
www.matanaroberts.com

03. Aron Sanchez, Musician
www.polyphonicworkshop.com
www.bukeandgase.com

04. Joseph del Pesco, Director/Curator
www.delpesco.com
www.kadist.org

05. Gordon Hall, Artist
www.gordonhall.net

06. Pauline Oliveros, Musician/Teacher
www.paulineoliveros.us
www.deeplisting.org

07. Zach Layton, Artist
www.zachlaytonindustries.com

08. David Horvitz, Artist
www.davidhorvitz.com

09. Marc Handelman, Artist
www.marchandelman.com

10. Tully Arnot, Artist
www.tullyarnot.com

11. Deville Cohen, Artist
www.devillecohen.com

12. Ryan Holladay with Hays Holladay, Musicians/Sound Artists
www.bluebra.in

13. Gryphon Rue with Cosmo Sheldrake, Musicians
www.gryphonrue.com
www.cosmosheldrake.com

14. Anna Moschovakis, Writer
www.uglyducklingpresse.org

15. Harper Reed, CTO/Hacker
www.harperreed.com
www.modest.com

16. Shoham Arad, Designer/Director
www.shohamarad.com
www.ted.com/participate/ted-fellows-program

17. Alison O'Daniel, Artist
www.alisonodaniel.com

18. Taylor Davis, Artist
www.taylordavis.net

19. Alexandro Segade, Artist
www.mybarbarian.com

20. Jordan Robin, Artist

www.artsy.net/jordanrobin

21. William Tucci, Musician

www.unstoppabledeathmachines.com

22. Hank Willis Thomas, Artist

www.hankwillisthomas.com

23. Lisa Yun Lee, Director/Curator

artandarthistory.uic.edu

Busy hour descriptions

Midnight

Pauline Oliveros

I was working with my programmer Jesse Stiles on Deep Listening Room an audio visual installation for the Biennial at the Whitney Museum for May 21 through 25.

A Tetra mic and a panoramic camera will be suspended from the ceiling in the Whitney lobby. Anything happening in the lobby – sight or sound will be sent to my Ambisonic Expanded Instrument System (AEIS) that will process the audio and Video and display in the Ehrenkrantz Gallery. The AEIS transforms the audio and video with delays and a variety of modulations. We were working on the modulations.

01 AM

Zach Layton

I'm currently working on a piece for a 64 channel speaker array in Troy, NY at EMPAC. In this recording I was testing the system and making a variety of tweaks and changes to the sound spatialization on the computer.

02 AM

David Horvitz

i'm in hawaii. i put the computer outside where i could sit and look at the ocean. i started the recording at the same time i started making tea. the tea. or looking at the ocean. that is working process.

03 AM

Marc Handelman

This audio recording took place on March 11, 2014, on a train from New York on route to Boston. I spent a good deal of the time working between two kinds of screens, each vying for my attention. The moving image through the train window became a reprieve from the monotonous photoshop work I was simultaneously doing on a laptop. The digital work consisted of an on-going book project of stripping away the narratives and identities from corporate environmental reports to arrive at a kind of perverse notion and rhetoric of commodified and totalized nature. My train journey, ironically, feels so pastoral. I am trying to imagine what this situation sounds like as a recording, which is never what it sounds like as one is experiencing it. An ambient droning, punctuated by clicks, and a fair amount of my coughing, probably fully peaking the sound levels.

04 AM

Tully Arnot

A sunny Sunday afternoon, visiting my parents house in Manly, Sydney, Australia, between about 3:30 and 4:30pm.

I wanted to start with an interesting sound.

The night before I did some test recordings on my phone, chatting to friends while drinking wine. The phone was on the table so whenever people topped up a drink the sloshing of the wine made nice sounds that drowned out everything else. I wanted to start with water!

So to open, the recording actually starts with a toilet flush, kind of like a clap at the start of a filming a movie. I then wash my hands, lots of nice sounds there.

As I open the door you hear the sound of music increase, my dad is listening to lots of

stuff today. I think to start there is Lauryn Hill, then old Michael Jackson – his 70's stuff.

I sit on the balcony talking to my dad while using my laptop, I'm researching a few things, checking emails, writing an exhibition proposal. We talk about a lemongrass cutting he was giving me, and some wood he just cut.

I walk through the house, passing the speakers the music increases, and into my childhood bedroom where the music is now quite low. I'm looking for a spare SD card, encountering junk including a bell that I keep bumping when I move stuff around.

Open draws, close draws etc. Good rolling sounds.

I just received a Raspberry Pi in the post this morning so I want to upload an operating system to an SD card so I can start using it.

I find the card, walk back into the kitchen and pour a glass of orange juice. The music is closer so now it's louder, I think it's a soul song.

I'm thirsty, but really I want you to hear the sloshy sounds. I place the phone right next to the glass when I pour, and then hold it in my hand while I drink. Gulp gulp.

I go back to the balcony. Dad's still there. I plug the SD card into my laptop and realise there are photos and videos from when I lived in Berlin in early 2013. They are mostly from a trip to Dresden, we had gone to the Bastei Bridge and some castle. It was minus 20 degrees Celsius that day.

I talk to my dad for a bit about stuff and then sit with him showing him the photos. We talk for a while about the trip, about how cold and bleak it looks.

My dad leaves to walk our dog, a black labradoodle called Lucy. He switches the music off.

I clear off the SD card, format it and install an operating system so I can use the Raspberry Pi.

While things are copying I listen to some of the recordings I made the night before. They were between 3am and 4am after I got home from somewhere to find my flatmate and a friend beside an empty bottle of tequila. The recordings start with a drunken discussion of how to save James Franco's art career – my flatmate thinks Franco should recreate Andrea Fraser's sex video artwork. We then discuss gender, sexuality, pop culture articles etc.

I'm waiting for the files to copy so mostly skipping through snippets and it probably sounds quite chaotic.

I realise I need a mouse and keyboard for my Raspberry Pi so dig around for one. More rustling sounds. I find a mouse but no keyboard.

I go back to the balcony, stand there looking out to the trees and listen to the birds. Thinking. Sit down, put on some music, Terry Callier, feeling bluesy. I do a few things on my computer, typing, look at emails.

I grab my iPad, I'm reading back through my current MFA draft so I'm going through that, writing notes on bits I need to change. It's probably really boring listening to someone read/write on an iPad, no rustling pages, no pen sounds.

Dad comes home, I know because the stereo suddenly goes back on. It's soul or disco again, not sure.

Lucy comes to tell me how her walk was, she loves that. Jumps on the couch, knocks my phone off a few times. I talk to Lucy for a bit "Lucy! How was your walk?", "Lucy! Lucy! Luuuuucy! Good girl!" etc etc.

Dad comes out, we chat more while I am distracted by editing my paper. It's about 4:30pm maybe, the sun is preparing to set, my dad has a whiskey after his walk, offers me a beer but I say no.

I think we chat about my brother, family, it's Mothers Day so we talk about dinner plans when my mum gets home from work. It was my parents wedding anniversary recently, I pay more attention to the conversation now. We talk for a while about welding, my friend Charlie, one of my old photo works, just stuff.

I really like talking to my dad, it feels good sitting on the balcony thinking about things, discussing the world with him. At some point the phone cuts out, but anyway my recording ran longer than the allocated hour. I'm not sure what parts of our conversation made it in, and I guess each individual part is pretty mundane, but they add up to something special. It doesn't really matter what I'm talking to my dad about, theres something beyond what is spoken that I really enjoy.

05 AM

Deville Cohen

So- yesterday, I was at the gym and I was on my way to staples to make some copies when my friend Naama called me and asked if I am coming to the frieze to see the shows, and that her memory card was full and if I can get her one on my way. Naama Tzabar was doing one of the frieze projects. She took the floor of the both they gave her out side of the tent and turned it into a music stage. Together with the editor of tom tom magazine they curated a music festival with band with female drummers.

The weather was perfect and they had whiskey and pink champagne so I took of my shoes and stayed there for the whole afternoon.

The one hour recording is of two bands and the set up time in between them. I can find out the name of the bands for you if you want.

This is a bit more about her project: <http://www.naamatsabar.com/without/>

06 AM

Ryan Holladay with Hays Holladay

I find I do my best thinking in airports and on airplanes. Not sure if its the change in air pressure or the restricted physical movement, but I sometimes find that I have solutions to problems up in the air that I wasn't able to on the ground. This is a recording of American Airlines flight 245 from Washington DC to Los Angeles. My brother, Hays, is sitting next to me editing audio and I'm writing.

07 AM

Gryphon Rue with Cosmo Sheldrake

My English musician friend Cosmo Sheldrake and I discussed our creative processes at dawn on a roof deck overlooking Long Island City, after an evening spent consuming the majority of a lamb, traipsing about TriBeca and dancing at a disco. Our admittedly rambling discussion explored several topics such as the necessity of constraints, sources of inspiration, and the challenge of finishing work.

08 AM

Anna Moschovakis

my recording was made between 7:30 and 8:30am on saturday, may 10. i had a medical procedure scheduled for 11:00 that day, and i had a reading scheduled for that night for which i had planned to write something new, but my anxiety over the procedure (though

minor) had prevented me from having the focus to write. i was also getting nervous about missing the deadline for this project. i realized i could kill three birds with one stone if i spent the hour working through my anxieties about the procedure by writing a new piece to read that evening and recording myself as i worked. i wrote almost nonstop for the hour (not my usual process) and the content of the piece ranged from the story surrounding the procedure to my lack of preparedness for the reading to my interest in this project. i like the fact that this is a piece i don't plan to publish, that its audience will be limited to whoever heard it at the reading, whoever hears the sounds of its composition as part of this project, and whoever reads this description of its occurrence, whether hearing or not. the location of the recording is my apartment on eastern parkway in crown heights, brooklyn. my room is on the noisy side of the apartment, so there is a constant backdrop of traffic noises, people shouting, sirens. i've been told that i type loudly.

09 AM

Harper Reed

i worked, answered questions and set up a phone system for modest.com

10 AM

Shoham Arad

One hour in Brasil: Where I'd never been. Was on a one week work trip with my boss for a program we run together. He was getting ready to give a presentation while I was talking to super cool brasilians in Sao Paolo, and thinking about travel, public speaking, the notion of who takes up space, and who doesn't; thinking about how you can no longer tell where someone lives or comes from by their jeans or their shoes or their haircuts; thinking about the audio working on his microphone and when I got to go home.

11 AM

Alison O'Daniel

This is mostly ambient travel noise. In the beginning, I am waiting on the platform to get on an Amtrak train on my way down to San Diego. On the train, you hear the ambient sounds, the conductor's radios, the announcements. You hear me typing and sending emails, making phone calls about production details and equipment for my film, and sending and receiving texts that I conducted by voice.

Noon

Taylor Davis

A studio hour with Oliver in which several activities took place: tea-making, stretcher building (with a pneumatic pin nailer and miter saw), quiet collage gluing, some iphone image sharing of Rauschenberg piece titled «soles», a discussion about Lygia Clark's craft, shoe tossing, some swearing and questions and other things I can't know unless I listened again.

01 PM

Alexandro Segade

what we are doing on this is listening to weird folk music in the background while both malik and i type on our respective computers in our office.

there is also some traffic noise.

we talk a few times, about scheduling issues mostly, and then we talk about art for a second. both of us are working on stuff that requires a lot of emailing. but we take a break and some point and eat, so the faucet and dishes and that sort of thing happens.

02 PM

Jordan Robin:

Just back at my studio after a long day assisting. I'm exhausted and have hiccups. Put on an OMD record and got to work on an image submission for a show I was invited into. I'm late sending everything off – surprise. Got deep into my hard drive, through a bunch of old editions, and images that I'm using for drawings coming up. Got distracted when I came across all of my band practice recordings, and reconciled sorting through them as multitasking because I was actually preparing for Wednesday night practice. Found a recording of an ex-boyfriend playing guitar in my bedroom, and had to change it up. So I mixed up more white to do another coat of primer on a sculpture I'm in the middle of. Things got fume-y and I got a bit gassed – naturally a great excuse for a cigarette break and some quick horizontal action.

03 PM

William Tucci

This sound clip is recording of me listening to a bootleg performance of Patti Smith live at the Metropolitan Museum of Art that I personally recorded in 2011. Often when I am thinking I sit in my room listen to my stereo and let the emotions inherent in music guide my meditations.

04 PM

Hank Willis Thomas

I met with my studio manager about emails and scheduling, watched some videos of potential collaborators and went to an opening at the lower east side print shop where I just completed a residency and had several pieces up.

05 PM

Lisa Yun Lee

An hour after work rushing to a dinner in honor of Mikhail Baryshnikov and Annie B Parson and Paul Lazar, who are in town performing the dance theater piece, Man in the Box, where art, love life, cats and dogs and Chicago land cultural gossip are discussed before dinner.

06 PM

Taeyoon Choi

sitting in this class at our school

<https://sfpc.hackpad.com/Social-Automation-and-APIs-pmtCXbWxIKq>

you will hear references.

07 PM

Bill Dietz

Approximately 22:15 – 23:15, May 2nd, Friday night. Editing an essay co-authored with Gavin Steingo («Experiments in Civility,» forthcoming in boundary 2): sitting on the couch with my computer surrounded by print-outs; occasional forays to the bookshelf to look for a reference; occasional typing. Drinks of water, bathroom, raining outside throughout.

08 PM

Matana Roberts

During that hour I worked on video editing, emails for booking, long tones for sax and stretching 4 sanity. 😊

09 PM

Aron Sanchez

I was carving and shaping a guitar neck, this one:

<https://www.facebook.com/bukeandgase/photos/a.129049397887.106769.59152617887/10152384684102888/?type=1&theater>

10 PM

Joseph del Pesco

I've recorded three 10 minute segments of my bus ride to the office. It's one of the spaces where I tend to think most creatively about my day and work... where the unexpected routinely occurs and a strange mix of people convene. I find it often leads to interesting and unusual connections of thought.

11 PM

Gordon Hall

It wasn't particularly creative, but it was typically busy. I got off the train at Fulton, made it up to my studio, made tea, sat down at my computer, and dove into my email. Very normal day!

Christine Sun Kim's call for contribution

I'm writing about the radio play list collaboration I am working on with Thomas Mader. It's for an online radio station in France called WebSYNradio (<http://droitdecites.org/websynradio/>).

They routinely invite artists and musicians to submit their curated playlists.

Since they broadcast 24/7 worldwide, Thomas and I have been considering what would capture the sound of being "busy" in our times and how normal it is to be always busy producing or creating your own work. We would like to constitute an actual full day of "busy" sounds by inviting participants to record themselves for an hour during their most creative moment such as studio time. It could range from reading to thinking to talking to typing, or all combined.

Since I am deaf and Thomas is hearing, we want to balance our standing in this project that deals mostly with sound. Therefore, Thomas and I have agreed that I will have full control over selecting and inviting "busy" people of various professions whom I personally know. Thomas will capture and collect our thought process for the piece in an essay written in English, a second language for both of us, that will be published alongside the recorded material.

After we receive an hour-long file from each 24 participants, we will arrange them as a full day and invite the public to tune in to listen to our curated busy day and get a glimpse of our overall progress of executing our ideas. This way we will create a sort of "archive of busy", raw material people can use to get inspired, to procrastinate or to satisfy their voyeuristic tendencies.

In order to submit, kindly let us know if you are able to participate (or not) and contribute an hour of your time. You could easily use your own iPhone, computer, or audio recorder to record for an hour and send the file to us via email.

Also, please write a sentence or as much as you like of what exactly you did during your hour, so I (along with potential deaf readers) can envision your time, making our project conceptually accessible. This proposal also overlaps the idea of trust; we ask that you do not listen to your own file after recording as we would like to keep this as raw as possible.

Thank you for taking your time to read this! We sincerely hope you will consider contributing your busy hour to us.

Thomas Mader – Busy Day

Compiling a playlist can have a variety of motivations, from the purely informational to the very emotional. The content is carefully selected, the audience's taste and the circumstances of listening are considered, and the different components arranged and re-arranged again and again until they fall into a perfect grid.

It can also be an egotistical endeavor. The selector puts themselves in an exposed position because they believe that their taste is worth dedicating time and attention to. At that moment, the playlist becomes a sort of sonic representation of the selector. The selector puts their reputation on the line by presenting a playlist that has been chosen on mostly subjective grounds, making it easy to judge and criticize, and even possible for the selector to lose a trust that was always only an assumption.

If the medium one chooses is meant to spread a uniform message to as many receptors as possible, then communication might be flawed from the start. Perhaps this is just the subliminal and subversive potential communication needs. If the process of communication is riddled with loopholes, the content becomes open to interpretation. This is the moment the selector's authority becomes undermined. Trust is only the initial element that is required to get the process started, but once it gains speed, the events that follow are no longer under the selector's control.

Nonetheless, this trust is essential to the process. What if the selector is not a native speaker, are they still considered an authority? How much of a voice and how much of a body does a medium require in order for the selector to get their message across?

This playlist is an archive of motivation and interaction. It is an invitation to get involved in the process and to bring it to an individually shaped end, despite the technical limitations of the medium and questionable motives of the selector, especially considering that creating this compilation is considered work even though the selector was not directly involved in the creation of the content.

To be busy means to invest time and energy, but to experience somebody else being busy can result in different of reactions. One can become inspired and feel like creating something oneself. Or one might just relax and let somebody else do the work for once.