



## Supersonix – artists in residence biographies

Born in 1954 in Ireland, artist and musician **David Cunningham (Supersonix visiting professor, Royal College of Art)** lives and works in London. His first significant commercial success came with The Flying Lizards' record *Money*, an international hit in 1979. Since then, his work has ranged from pop music to gallery installations, including work for television, film, contemporary dance and a series of collaborations with visual artists.

Cunningham's installation works explore the real-time experience of the acoustic qualities of a space. Locations have included Chisenhale Gallery London (1994), Biennale of Sydney (1998) and the Tate Triennale (Tate Britain, 2003); subsequent installations have included ICC Tokyo, Ikon Gallery Birmingham, Camden Arts Centre London and 1m<sup>3</sup> Lausanne.

Since the release of his first album, *Grey Scale*, in 1976, Cunningham has worked as a musician and record producer, engaging with an eclectic range of people and music – from improvisers such as David Toop to Michael Nyman, Ute Lemper and Joanne Robertson's first album. He has been a live music collaborator and performer with John Cage, Kathy Acker, Apache 61 and many others. His music for film has included Ken McMullen's films *Zina* and (in collaboration with Michael Giles and Jamie Muir) *Ghost Dance*, and a series of film and television collaborations with visual artists which has included John Latham, David Hall, Stephen Partridge, Bruce McLean and Tony Sinden.

Related work has included the production and treatment of sound for installation and broadcast artworks by Martin Creed, Cerith Wyn Evans, Susan Hiller, Amikam Toren, João Penalva, Ian Breakwell, Gillian Wearing, Thomas Demand, Brad Butler and Karen Mirza, Sam Taylor-Wood and many others.

Cunningham's most recent project was *A Lot of Pianos*, in which he commissioned seven composers and artists (including himself) each to compose a work for multiple pianos. It was performed by a large ensemble of pianists in a piano shop over the course of an evening, a unique opportunity to explore the possibilities of a large number of pianos.

<http://www.stalk.net/piano/dcbio.htm>

**Aleksander Kolkowski (Supersonix artist in residence, Science Museum)** is a composer, violinist, sound artist and researcher born and based in London. In a career spanning over 30 years as a professional musician, he has appeared at major festivals worldwide and recorded for numerous record labels with a variety of ensembles, bands and as a solo performer. (cont)

Over the past 12 years, Kolkowski has explored the potential of historical sound recording and reproduction technology, combining his unique collection of horned string instruments with gramophones and wax cylinder phonographs, to make contemporary mechanical-acoustic music. This work has been shown across Europe and in the USA, and broadcast by the BBC, WDR, Deutschlandradio and others.

In 2002 he founded *Recording Angels*, a project that examines our relationship to recorded sound using Edison phonographs and disc record-cutters in performances, installations and workshops. *Recording Angels* events have incorporated singers, singing canaries and instrument building as well as live-made sound inscriptions onto wax and lacquer. Large-scale works have been commissioned by MaerzMusik - Berlin, Sonic Arts Network and the BFI South Bank.

Recent activities include a disc-recording booth for repurposing digital CDs as 45rpm analogue records and both sound installation and performance work where antiquated sound reproducing machines, mechanical musical instruments and historic recordings are combined with state-of-the-art electronics.

His major project to date has been an archive of contemporary musicians, artists and writers recorded exclusively on wax cylinders. Begun in 2006 and continuing, the *Phonographies* collection is now available online and is broadcast through a series of weekly radio shows on Resonance 104.4 FM.

[www.phonographies.org](http://www.phonographies.org)

The creative repertoire of **Jason Singh (*Supersonix* artist in residence, V&A Museum)** includes beatboxing, vocal sculpting, sound art, dj-ing, poetry, percussion, composition and workshop facilitation. Born in London and based in Manchester, Jason Singh has performed and exhibited work in theatre productions, festivals, club nights, radio, television, poetry events, art galleries and discussion panels around the world. His work is based on the constant need to develop exciting creative experiences through performance and participation. He has collaborated with art and media organisations – including the PRS for Music Foundation, National Portrait Gallery, BFI, Jaipur Literature Festival, Jodhpur International Folk Festival, V&A, BBC and Whitworth Art Gallery – to further develop Beatboxing as an art form of free expression.

A prolific solo performer, Singh is also a keen musical collaborator and has recorded and performed alongside musician and composer Nitin Sawhney. Singh's past and present collaborations include Susheela Raman, Sebastian Rochford, Sampler Culture Clash, Urban Soul Orchestra, Stuart McCallum (Cinematic Orchestra), Rupa and the April Fishes, The Safires, Shivamani, Marco Fadda and Arun Ghosh.

Singh is a collaborative partner in a variety of projects across a range of creative disciplines including sound, music, dance, film, theatre and textiles. He has completed artistic residencies in the UK, India and Australia, is the UK national advocate for the Sing Up programme and an associate lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University.

[www.thesinghthing.com](http://www.thesinghthing.com)

#### Notes to editors

1. Exhibition Road Cultural Group represents the arts, science, cultural and learning organisations of South Kensington, Britain's most popular tourist destination. A full list of members can be found at [www.exhibitionroad.com/who](http://www.exhibitionroad.com/who).
2. For more information on *Supersonix*, the artists in residence programme and ERCCG, please contact Paul Cutts, chief executive officer, ERCCG: [paul@exhibitionroad.com](mailto:paul@exhibitionroad.com); Tel: +44 (0) 20 7942 6875.