

Christi Denton: Composer / Sound Artist

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Professional Summary

Christi Denton is a musician, sound artist, composer, and educator who works with found sounds, electronics, and homemade and modified instruments. She creates soundscapes that interact with or can be modified by people and the environment. Her work incorporates field recordings and digital processing to create intricate and immersive sonic environments, that showcase her fascination with the potential of sound as a medium for artistic expression.

Denton's current projects include "earthworm," an electronics/guitar/field recordings collaboration with London-based songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Margaret Fiedler McGinnis as well as working with Pam Minty, a Portland-based filmmaker on an immersive installation about a bean plant. She directed Portland State University's laptop ensemble from 2019 to 2022.

Selected Pieces and Performances

- 2024 earthworm performance of *SPRINGS* as part of the non_jazz series. The piece used guitar, Max/MSP, field recordings, and light and heartrate monitors and featured a graphic score (Paris France)
- 2023 Performance of *Sound Portrait of Low Tide at Suquamish*, a visual score by Marcus Fischer at Oregon Contemporary as part of Fischer's *What Was Lost and What Remains* 2023 exhibit (Portland Oregon)
- 2023 Improvisation collaboration with Marija Kovačević (violin), Quentin Rollet (saxophone), and David Siink (electronics) at Tony Collectif (Paris France)
- 2022, 2023 Performed *Sonic Siestas* at FestiFrom (Fromental, Haute Vienne, France) for the audience to sleep through
- 2021 Co-directed (with Caroline Louise Miller) a performance of Pauline Oliveros' *The Witness* with Portland State University's laptop ensemble as part of Sonic Matter (Zurich Switzerland)
- 2020, 2021 Performed online shows as part of the Jefferson Park Exp series (Chicago Illinois)
- 2020 Wrote and directed *Social Distance* (in Max, using OSC), an interactive online piece that allowed the 25-member Portland State University laptop ensemble to collaborate and hold a live performance in real time from their homes.
- 2018 Wrote *Tardigrade* with the help of invertebrate zoologist Matt Hooge, an interactive musical piece controlled by the movements of a water bear.
- 2017 With DJ iueke, performed a two-hour long live set on Rinse.fm (Paris France)
- 2017 Performed at *Unity Gain*, Volume 1, at Open Signal on Portland Community College's 24 channel speaker system (Portland Oregon)
- 2015 With Heather Perkins, created an interactive sound installation using 12 breathalyzers (the ethanolorchestra) as part of Darren Orange's month-long *Orange on Blue* exhibit in the lobby of the Astor Hotel (Astoria Oregon).
- 2014 Created burnable microphones to record fire sounds as part of Julie Keefe's (Portland's Creative Laureate) multi-artist project *Burn* (Sisters Oregon).
- 2013 Commission by the Free Marz String Trio as part of March Music Moderne and in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* (Portland Oregon).
- 2012 Created *Between Two Points* (with Heather Perkins) for *Time Based Art Festival's Ten Tiny Dances*, where a dancer (Renee Sills) was wired with flex sensors and controlled the music through dance (Portland Oregon).
- 2011 Created the LAMOSO, a laser MIDI controller for the 2011 *Time Based Art Festival's Ten Tiny Dances*, where a dancer (Danielle Ross) controlled the music by interacting with the instrument (Portland Oregon). The LAMOSO was a finalist in the *Guthman Musical Instrument Competition* (Atlanta, Georgia) in 2012.
- 2008 Created a multi-channel piece that is part of the permanent exhibit *Six Seconds Around Me* in the Casoria Contemporary Art Museum (Naples Italy).
- 2008 Performed *merge* at the *Spark Festival of Electronic Music* at the University of Minnesota (Minneapolis Minnesota).
- 2003 Built giant wind chimes in the Castro district as part of the *Music for People and Thingamajigs Festival* (San Francisco California).
- 2003 Wrote a composition for *Klavier Nonette*, an installation of toy pianos created by Trimpin (Seattle Washington).
- 2003 Arranged Lou Harrison's *King David's Lament for Jonathan* which was performed during Other Minds 9 by the San Francisco Opera Singers and the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus (San Francisco California)
- 2001 Modified exhibits (*The Prepared Exploratorium*) in the San Francisco Exploratorium to create sound as part of their Art Cafe Series (San Francisco California).

Selected Music Recordings

- 2018 *Meduse* (album) released on Pan y Rosas Discos (pyr263) (Chicago Illinois)

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- Avant Music News put it on their "Best of 2018" list.
- 2003 *IX Pieces for UPIC* (album). Self-published.
- Written on Iannis Xenakis' Unité Polyagogique Informatique CEMAMu, it is one of the few pieces written on the instrument recent decades.
 - Le cri du Patchwork (France Musique radio show), used *IX Pieces for UPIC* in a show about musical instruments and gesture (2014).
- 2003 *Working Girl* (piece). Self-published.
- Sound collage of firefighters, chefs, tattoo artists, factory employees, politicians, and other working women
 - Was played daily for a year (November 2004-2005) on Radio Lavalamp (community radio in Osaka Japan).

Press Features

- Fall 2024 (Expected.) Included in *A Year of Deep Listening: 365 Text Scores for Pauline Oliveros*, edited by Stephanie Loveless, published by Terra Nova Press, and distributed by MIT Press.
- March 2024 Included in Fanny Chiarello's *Basta Now: Women, Trans & Non-binary in Experimental Music*, an overview of womxn in the global experimental sound & music scene. (Published by Permanent Draft).
- February 2018 Hour-long interview with *Digital Divide* (KBOO) discussing music projects and inspirations (Portland Oregon)

Classes, Lecture, and Presentations

- 2019 to 2022 Adjunct Professor, Sonic Arts and Music Production (Music Department), Portland State University (Portland Oregon). Director of the university's two laptop ensembles. Taught students how to write and perform music with laptops both in-person and online.
- May 2018 Theremin building workshops at the Knowledge Exchange for Women (Paris France)
- March 2018 Sub/Harmonic Artist Panel during PICA's Sonic Arts Festival (Portland Oregon)
- February 2013 Presentation on interactive electronics to Rose Bond's Intermediate Animated Arts: Installation class at Pacific Northwest College of Art (Portland Oregon)
- 2012 Presentations on improvisation and collaboration between disciplines with choreographer Danielle Ross at Conduit Dance (Portland Oregon), Creative Music Guild's Improvisation Summit of Portland, and the Lucky Penny (Atlanta Georgia)
- June 2012 Presentation on the LAMOSO (Laser/Motion/Sound MIDI controller) at Dorkbot PDX (Portland Oregon)
- October 2011 Taught a 'How to Compose on the iPad' workshop at the Electrogals Festival at Disjecta (Portland Oregon)
- May 2010 Lecture on Max/MSP and electronic music to Mary Wright's Electronic Music class at Portland Community College (Portland Oregon)

Other Relevant Professional and Board Experience

- 2014 Artist-in-Residence at Caldera (Sisters Oregon). Included teaching a class on interactive electronics and Theremin building for Caldera's High School program (Sisters Oregon)
- 2007-2008 Arts Policy Associate, City Commissioner Sam Adams (Portland Oregon)
- 2004-present (on hiatus since 2012) Board of Directors of Electrogals, a concert series featuring electronic and experimental music and digital art by women (Portland Oregon)
- 2001-2003 Information Manager and Archivist, Other Minds Music Festival (San Francisco California)

(In addition, other professional experience has included working as an environmental analyst and project manager (on and off between 2006-present) and as a software engineer (on and off between 1997-2014).

Areas of Specialization and Technical Proficiencies

- Areas of specialization include sound art, interactive sound installations, multichannel speaker configurations, composition, field recording, electronics, building instruments, audience (or external) participation in composition, and live collaborative online performances.
- Works are primarily created with Max (including MSP, jitter, and mira), Pd, arduinos, MIDI, OSC, ProTools, Open Broadcaster Software, QLab, various web markup/scripting/programming languages, and MOTU audio interfaces (e.g., Ultralite)

Education

- 2004 Graduate Certificate, Electronic Music, Iannis Xenakis Centre de Creation Musicale (Alfortville France).
- 2000 Bachelor of Arts, Music Composition, Mills College (Oakland, California). Studied with Pauline Oliveros, Maggi Payne, and Wendy Reid

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