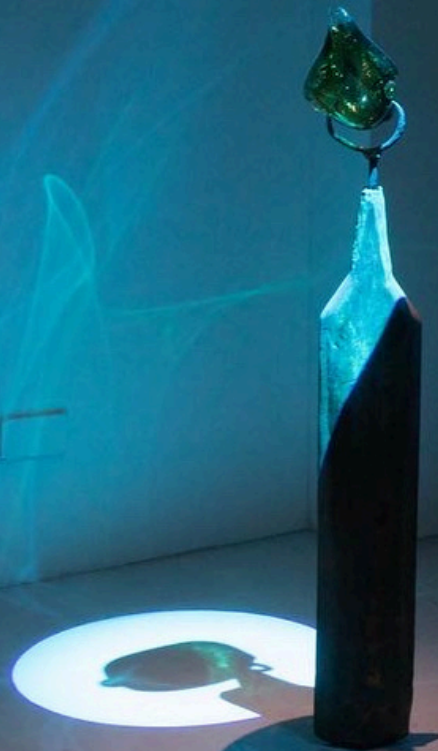


Hard Drives, Soft Walks

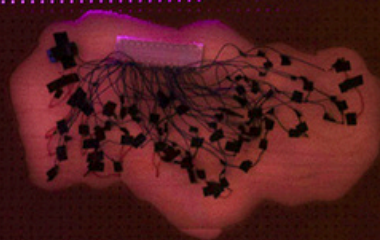
Duo show

Seren Metcalfe & Martina O'Shea



19 January – 19 February 2023

Chemist Gallery, 57 Loampit Hill, London SE13 7SZ

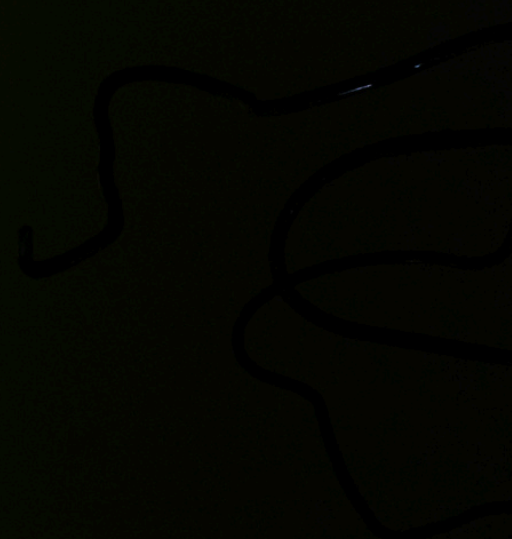




For the inaugural exhibition at 'Chemist', Martina O'Shea and Seren Metcalfe debut new work alongside a collaborative sound and light installation. 'Hard Drives, Soft Walks' is a mashed up journey of the two artists, from night clubs, to mud larking, glitching landscape, tv soaps, late night walks and half remembered dreams. The centre of the installation is a collaborative sound piece: two voices telling tales through radio static, located in an ever changing vista of London, Ireland and Yorkshire. Fields, birdsong hit against traffic jams and sirens, mummers and echos from tv sets counter to techno beats transformed into the bodhrans. City remains and construction materials, pop memorabilia and programmed lights are forming a ghostly, theatrical set of the ever in flux space between body place and time.

*Sculpture, Soundtrack, Programmed Lighting,
Animatronics, Performance*









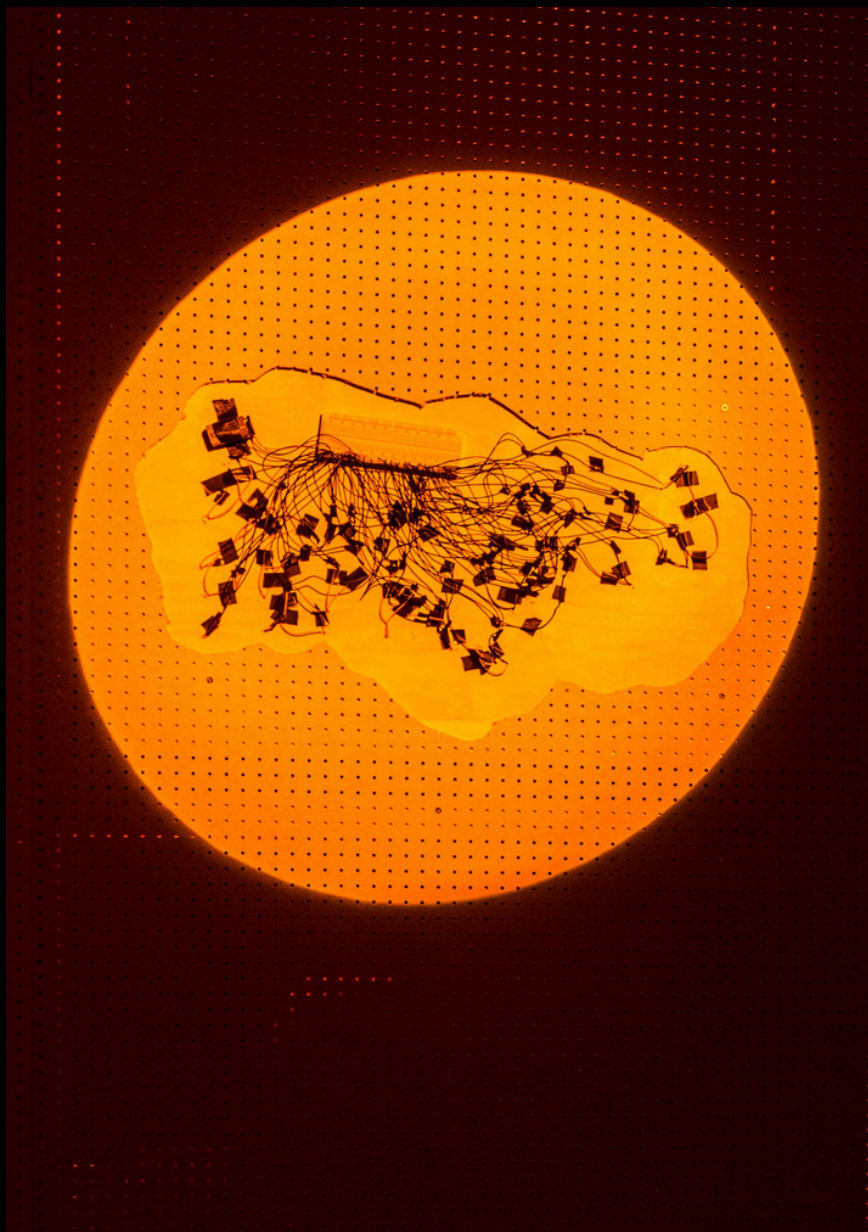
[Full Video](#)
[Soundtrack](#)





outside outside
in in
a vast a vast
space space
outside outside
in in
a vast a vast
space space





The Hard Drives, soft walks Publication is an edited version of a google doc made prior and during the show. Starting off as complete strangers, they used the document as a means to form greater understanding of each other's practices. This conversation evolved into monologues, poetry and eventually a 12 minute soundtrack.

The Publication is Available to purchase in:

[Presse Books](#)

[Claire De Rouen](#)

[Publication](#)

[Publication Insert](#)



SM Recently I've been working with found materials. I want the work in the show to feel suspended in memory and time - memories and objects feeling trapped and also free and exploding like stars. I want to use more found materials - space junk. I like the idea of you using car aerials, especially in terms of music. There's also something interesting about cars and transport and cars being private moving karaoke booths.

MOS Yes, a car aerial campfire. Radio and aerials as a symbol of collective consciousness. There's a certain quality to the type of conversation that happens while driving. Memories, materials, space, time is present in both of our practices. At the end of a show I installed and deconstructed this summer I took this photo of the stud wall being knocked down. Why does it seem like such a joyous thing to me? Maybe the breaking of any wall triggers some kind of excitement about what's coming next! Making way for the new!

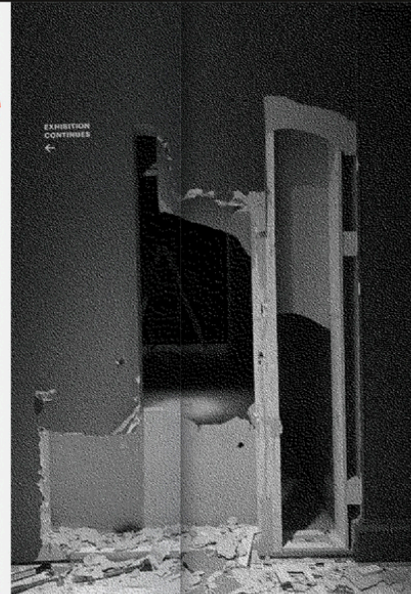
SM The idea of a divider from the window of the gallery with some kind of entrance hole could work well - a change in atmosphere. Stud walls form the bones of television, film sets and artist studios - the illusion of an environment - The evidence of.

SM We could create an environment where inside the stud wall feels dark - encapsulating the audience and the outside feels like behind the scenes. I want to create a contrast between light and dark or artificial light and natural light.

MOS Yeah, the stud wall definitely is reminiscent of tv sets and artists' studios. Back in 2003 I worked behind the scenes in the art department for the national broadcaster RTE in Dublin for a couple of years on shows like the Den and Fair City. There was always a sense of being blinded by the set lights when you entered the set from behind the stud walls. For me stud walls also give off a sense of impermanence/ change/time. Maybe this was the attraction to working in TV.

SM It reminds me of a nightclub. Social rules are so strange. We can enter a certain room and suddenly the purpose is to dance and jump around and as soon as we exit the door of the nightclub and continue dancing or singing everyone looks at us like we are crazy.

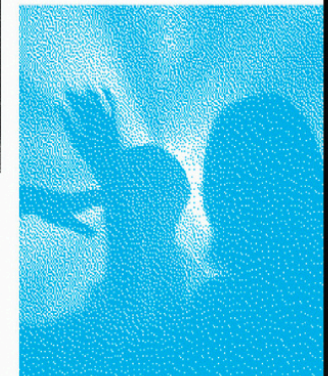
SM Music and Television are important elements I want to reference in my work; nostalgic feelings of hope and belonging, and relatability.



MOS I'm thinking a lot about sound lately. I got a book today called Quantum Listening by Pauline Oliveros "a manifesto for listening as activism, blending technology and spirituality" forward by Laurie Anderson!

*"As I listen I remember
"As I write and listen, hidden sounds emerge"
"Can you imagine listening beyond the edge
of your own imagination"
"Can you imagine the tuning of the world?"
"As you listen, the particles of sound decide to
be heard. Listening affects what is sounding"*

MOS When Pauline and a couple of others descended into the Dan Harpole Cistern, along. Empty receptacle for water fourteen feet underground, built by the US military near Seattle. In the depths, they listened intently as their sounds returned to them with an extraordinary delay of forty-five seconds.





www.serenmetcalfe.co.uk
seren_metcalfe@hotmail.co.uk