



For Immediate Release

October 18, 2016

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**Third Culture Projects at University of Oregon
culminate in performance of *semaphore* Sunday, Oct. 23**

Salem, Oregon – Multidisciplinary artist Audra Wolowiec will lead *semaphore*, a performance based on a series of translations that explore the slipperiness of communication, at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 23, in the Lewis Integrative Science Building (LISB) at the University of Oregon. The performance is part of Third Culture Conversations and Projects, a cross-discipline program placing artists into collaborative situations with the leading researchers housed at the LISB. The program is funded by Oregon's Percent for Art in Public Places Program.

semaphore was created by Wolowiec in collaboration with UofO's Jaramillo Neuroscience Lab, where auditory systems are being investigated through mapping brain synapses. Also featured in the performance will be CHOIR, the experimental vocal group led by composer and sound artist Jesse Meija. The performance was envisioned to relay the impulses mined through data gathered directly from the Jaramillo lab, poetically translated as an experimental score. Using the C.P. Snow lecture and essay "The Two Cultures" as a starting point, the words *syncope* and *synapse* were selected as editing tools to remove parts of speech, mining gaps and silences, and creating a new series of connections to be summoned.

Third Culture began May 28-30, 2014, with a three-day gathering of informal presentation and inquiry. Nineteen artists were selected to attend from 10 US cities. "Third Culture" references the arguments of British scientist and writer C.P. Snow, who, in a series of lectures, articles and books between 1959 and 1963, encouraged more collaboration between the sciences and humanities.

Following the 2014 event, each of the artists was invited to propose a project that involved collaborators from the LISB community. Wolowiec's is the final project to be realized.

Detroit artist Kylie Lockwood created an installation of ephemera resulting from her collaboration with Daryn R. Blanc-Goldhammer in Paul Dassonville's Cognitive Neuroscience Lab at UofO. *Grafting the Pupil to the Finger Tip* presents material evidence of the collaborators' investigations into human perception, including a binaural audio recorder cast from the artist's head. Through the use of

microphones mounted in the sculpture's ear canals, this device creates a spatialized sound experience that mimics the perception of hearing through the ears of the human head. The installation can be viewed in LISB..

New York-based hannes bend's *myndful* is the first virtual reality work to enter Oregon's Percent for Art Collection. *myndful*, a smartphone app that leads a user through mindful meditation techniques, utilizes a virtual reality interface and a heart rate monitor to provide real-time biofeedback to the user with the goal of self-regulation and stress-reduction. The smartphone app is based on cross-disciplinary research in the fields of neuroscience, psychology, computer science, biology, physics and mindfulness practices carried out by the artist in collaboration with UofO researchers (including Vogel Lab) and the University of Michigan, as well as meditation practitioners Tamar Hurvitz and Sarajeon Zocklein. A publication documenting Third Culture, an experiment in intellectual collaboration, is forthcoming.

Integrative science is the practice of gathering all the expertise in basic and applied sciences as well as expertise in any other relevant field (public policy, law, business, communications, design, art, anthropology, sociology, etc.) to simultaneously address a particular problem from multiple perspectives. Leaders at UofO believe this holistic approach will bring about the kind of powerful solutions that will more effectively and quickly address some of society's most challenging problems including brain behavior disorders, climate change, disease and energy shortages. The Lewis Integrative Science Building (LISB) was completed in 2012 as the platform for this challenge.

UofO and the Arts Commission thank all the artist participants in Third Culture: hannes bend, Brooklyn; Carla Bengtson, Eugene; Tim Berg, Claremont; Mike Bray, Eugene; Ben Buswell, Portland; Rebecca Cummins, Seattle; Molly Dilworth, Ana Maria Gomez Lopez, New Haven; Kylie Lockwood, Detroit; Euan Macdonald, Eugene; Owen Mundy, Tallahassee; Sarah Nance, Portland; Julie Oldham, Eugene; Eric Parren, Los Angeles; Ethan Rose, Portland; Lisa Schonberg, Portland; Jordan Tate, Cincinnati; Holcombe Waller, Portland; and Audra Wolowiec, Brooklyn.

Oregon's Percent for Art in Public Places Program.

Living up to its pioneering reputation, Oregon was one of the first states in the nation to pass Percent for Art legislation, placing works of art in public spaces throughout the state. Since then, the Percent for Art program has maintained a commitment to the placement of permanent art of the highest quality in public places. Committees of local citizens across Oregon make selections. The overall collection enhances the state's public spaces and contributes to our well-recognized quality of life.

The Oregon Arts Commission provides leadership, funding and arts programs through its grants, special initiatives and services. Nine commissioners, appointed by the Governor, determine arts needs and establish policies for public support of the arts. The Arts Commission became part of Business Oregon (formerly Oregon Economic and Community Development Department) in 1993, in recognition of the expanding role the arts play in the broader social, economic and educational arenas of Oregon communities. In 2003, the Oregon legislature moved the operations of the Oregon Cultural Trust to the Arts Commission, streamlining operations and making use of the Commission's expertise in grantmaking, arts and cultural information and community cultural development.

The Arts Commission is supported with general funds appropriated by the Oregon legislature and with federal funds from the National Endowment for the Arts as well as funds from the Oregon Cultural

Trust. More information about the Oregon Arts Commission is available online at:
www.oregonartscommission.org