



**THE POLITICS  
OF SOUND**

**NOV 26.22 – MAY 07.23**

## **Accessibility Support for Visitors with Limited Hearing**

All sound-based artworks in this exhibition have a text-based equivalent. Each artwork listed below is described to ensure visitors with limited hearing have an understanding of the audio component.



Adam Basanta

**The loudest sound in the room experienced very quietly, 2015**

Sound installation

Microphone, reclaimed speaker cone, PA amplifier, VU meter, acrylic, metal, electronics

The audio component for this artwork is a feedback signal, which is triggered every 30 seconds by an automated timer. By observing the decibel meter placed on top of the amplifier, it is possible to see when the feedback loop is active. The feedback signal is around 120 decibels in volume but is barely audible outside of this sealed acoustic isolation tank. The audio signal lasts for 30 seconds before turning itself off.



Adam Basanta

**Curtain (white), 2016**

Sound installation

240 pairs white earbuds, acrylic, electronics, 24 channel sound

The audio component of this artwork contains patterns of white noise—a sound which masks surrounding sounds, and is often used in “sleep machines.” This pattern of white noise sweeps across the curtain from left to right. Despite the synthetic production techniques, the sound mass evokes organic memories of waves, wind, rain and insects.



Marjie Crop Eared Wolf

**Niitsi'powahsin Secwepemctsín, 2021–2022**

Mixed-media installation

The audio component of this artwork is the artist's voice. On the left screen, the artist is reciting words from the Blackfoot Dictionary, and on the right screen, she is speaking words from the Secwepemc Dictionary.

The drawings placed between the video screens consist of the same words spoken by the artist. The drawing on the left contains Blackfoot words and the drawing on the right contains Secwepemc words. The middle drawing is a mix of the two languages.

A copy of the Blackfoot Language Workbook is available in the hallway seating area for visitors to read in more depth.



Benny Nemer

## **The Last Song, 2013**

Mixed-media installation

The audio component of this artwork is a singer performing the song “Tu m’Offendi,” from Vivaldi’s aria *La Verità in Cimento* (“the truth in contention”). During the first section of the song the singer’s voice is in a lower baritone range, before he “breaks” midway through and sings in the higher soprano range. The sheet music for the song is printed below in the original language of Italian.

# Tu m'offendi mà non rendi

Aria from the opera  
La verità in cimento (1720)

Antonio VIVALDI (1678 – 1741)

Realized and edited by Sergei PICHUGIN



Andante [♩. = 40]

3 Zelim:  $\text{♩}$  Adagio Andante

Tu\_m'of - fen - di, Tu m'of -

6 fen - di\_ mà non ren - di Me - no for - te e me - no a - man - te, me - no

8 for - te e\_ me - no a - man - te Il co - stan - - - -

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10

12

te mio fra-ter - no dol-ce a -

*tr*

14

mor. Tu m'of-

*f* *p*

16

fen - di mà non ren - di Me-no for - te e me - no a-man - te, Il co -

18

stan

20

- te mio fra - ter - no dol - ce a - mor, Il co - stan -

22

- te mio fra - ter - no dol - ce a - mor.

*f*

24

*p*

*f*

rit.  
(by repeat)

**Fine**



Qual' io sia, son tuo Ger - ma - no, E se fos - si tuo so -

*p*

28

vra - no Per te ta - - - - -

30

- le ei fo - ra an - cor, per te ta - - - - -

32

- le ei fo - ra an - cor.

*D.S. al Fine*

*f*



jamilah malika abu-bakare

**listen to Black women (II) + offerings (III), 2021**

Sound installation

The audio component of this artwork is a collage of voices. Short excerpts from each speaker are printed on the back of the images hanging in the gallery. Visitors are invited to remove a single image from the wall and take it home with them. A full transcript of the audio collage is printed on the following pages.

## Transcript of *listen to Black women (II)*

by jamilah malika abu-bakare. Sound installation, 2021.

Featured voices indicated by changes in type:

Azealia Banks - Jully Black - **Angela Davis** - Amara La Negra  
**Keke Palmer** - *Rihanna*

*i have to say it*

*i'm a Black woman*

**Black women**

*i come from a Black woman*

**determined, fighting Black women**

*who came from a Black woman, who came from a Black woman*

**God bless us**

*and i'm gonna give birth to a Black woman and-*

**generations of Black women**

**generations of Black women-**

**generations of-**

**generations of Black women-**

*back to back to back to back to*

*back to back to back to back to back and i get it you know*

*it's like-*

**determined, fighting Black women**

*why is it so hard for people to understand*

*or accept me?*

\*suck teeth sounds\*

*you know? and-*

**generations of Black women have carried a disproportionate burden**

**in the family**

**as they are determined, and were determined**

**to keep its integrity intact**

**against the constant onslaught of indignities**

**to which it has been subjected**

*you get what i mean?*

**so if i say somethin'**

**i'm sayin' somethin' for a reason**

*like i'm-*

like i'm-  
i gotta be the bitter Black b\*\*\*\* because i like  
have somethin' to say about it

the fact that i even have to answer these questions  
the fact that i have to feel as if i have to prove myself  
um 'cause every single part of me is being questioned

**as they are determined, and were determined**

whenever it comes to our "things" like

**and i feel like**

i feel-  
i feel-  
i feel-

**and i feel like so many times Black women say stuff and  
nobody gives a s\*\*\*  
excuse my language, nobody gives a F\*\*\*  
when sometimes Black women say somethin'  
but somebody of another complexion, somebody of another colour  
they say somethin' and then it's like  
"we're taking it to court"**

you know? and-

**"it's time to get serious"**

you know? and-

**"#metoo"**

and it makes me upset

why is it so hard for people to understand or accept me?

but what i- what i'm saying in general  
whenever i have to say anything about anything it's like  
"oh here goes this crazy Black b\*\*\*\*,  
here this dadadadada-"

**that she refused-  
that she refused-  
that she refused to be treated as  
less than a human being any longer**

so whatever you're feeling, take it to the altar  
'cause i'm not the one that's responsible for your feelings

and that's really what you're attacking me for?  
that's re-? like, think about it  
you have no other-  
you have no other reason to come at me

**i think people have such a perception of a Black woman being so strong**

that we just 'sposed to take anythi-  
anythi-  
anything

thrown at us and then when we don't, "we're weak"

well no, i'm supposed to get beat down  
by everybody that comes near me?

no!

i'll be that b-

i gotta be the bitter Black b\*\*\*\* because i like  
have somethin' to say about it

but at that moment just to hear that you don't even know how to react

you don't know if-

to be like: the f\*\*\* you just said to me right now?

what the f\*\*\*

***but she's also talking about all of the anonymous Black women  
who gave their lives through their participation***

i'll be that b\*\*\*\*

***if that means i have to stand for me  
and i have to show other young women  
that you should not let people take advantage of you  
no matter who they are  
i don't care if it was the g\*\*\*\*\* president***

ooooooooooooh

so yes

*i have to say it*

***so if i say somethin'***

***i'm sayin' somethin' for a reason***

*i have to say it*

we really have to talk about this

*you know i can get crucified for saying things like this*

*but it is the truth*

*and i know that a lot of people like to cover the sun with one finger*

*and pretend that the issue is not there*

*but that's what's happening, that- because nobody wants to talk about it*

*it's been happening for years-*

*for years-*

*and years-*

*and years-*

*and nobody is actually being vocal about it*

***i don't like when people think that somebody just gon' be***

sayin' somethin' just to say it

*hers has been a desperate effort  
to make a place of dignity for her people*

first of all i love Black people  
i love my people  
you know what i'm saying

*we're impeccable  
we are im-pec-ca-ble  
we're special*

*and the world is just gonna have to deal with that*

so whatever you're feeling, take it to the altar  
'cause i'm not the one that's responsible for your feelings

**first of all i love Black people  
i love my people  
you know what i'm saying-**

and y'all will sweep that s\*\*\* right under the f\*\*\*\*\* rug

**and we're just s'posed to take anything thrown at us**

you know what  
unfortunately i almost feel that because  
i've heard it so many times

and it makes me upset

you know there's this part of me that felt like  
i don't even wanna be mad at you  
i just- i just feel like i should educate you about it  
like i don't even wanna be mad at you  
'cause at this point

um

where have you been living, under a rock? like  
but at the same time i can't even be mad at you because-

**it's kinda like  
what the hell, you know  
you just lazy  
nooo - she depressed**

so until y'all m\*\*\*\*\*s are ready to talk about what y'all owe me  
whether the number's seven trillion or eight trillion  
or nine trillion  
at the very f\*\*\*\*\* least y'all owe me the right to my f\*\*\*\*\* identity  
and to not exploit that sh-

nobody really talks about it  
we kinda just shut up and take it and just sit back

and we're just s'posed to take anything thrown at us  
no!

it's like Black  
li- like a Black woman can like really sit here and say like  
whatever the f\*\*\* she feels like  
without being shot at or like sprayed by a hose or some s\*\*\*

***we can say without the slightest hesitation  
that there has never been a single moment  
in the history of our people in this country  
when Black women were not intensely involved  
in the resistance struggle***

so you get what i mean?

\*suck teeth sounds\*

**God bless us**

*my mother's raised me to be an incredible woman  
and she's a strong, incredible example  
of what to be and how to fight  
through obstacles in life  
and i'm sure her mom has also taught her, and  
that's how i'm gonna be*

***when i speak of Black women i have to-***

*and i'm sure her mom has also taught her*

***praise my own mother  
and when i reflect upon the  
long and infinitely rich history of struggle  
that has been written with the sweat  
and blood  
of Black women***

you have to look a certain type of way  
in order to be pretty  
your hair needs to be straight and silky  
in order to be pretty

**no  
it's not cool  
it's not cool, because  
that's not how it should be  
that's it!**

well then that's their problem  
that's your problem, you know what i mean?  
that's your problem

you- you're picking and choosing

we come in so many shades-

now listen, i'm a creative individual, i have-

so many shades-

*we're impeccable*

*we are im-pec-ca-ble*

*we're special*

oh my God you're so pretty

for being a Black girl

really?

ummm

**at the end of the day i don't wish nobody no ill**

**but i gotta be down for me**

**if i'mma be down for anybody**

**i've got to be down for me**

***and once Black women became involved***

***in the fight and liberation of the people***

**God bless us**

***then half the battle was won***

**it's over it's done**

**but at least anybody knows i won't be tried**

**that's the real point of it all, you have to set your boundaries**

**you know what i'm saying? i have to let people know**

**now y'all know**

***i must admit that i felt***

***very triumphant to be able to speak-***

listen i talk

i talk about so-

and it's so funny cause i talk about so many different things

***and then of course when we speak of the involvement***

***of Black women***

***and the struggle***

***Black women said no***

***they would not allow another one of their sisters***

***to be swallowed up***

***by the racist monster of oppression***

***that she refused to be treated as less than a human being any longer***