

# The Museum of Modern Art

50th Anniversary



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## MUSEUM EXHIBITION FEATURES WORKS INCORPORATING SOUND

Recorded works by Maggie Payne, Julia Heyward, and Connie Beckley will be presented sequentially for six weeks beginning June 25 in the exhibition SOUND ART at The Museum of Modern Art. Directed by Barbara London, the exhibition focuses on the work of three artists involved in what is one of today's newest directions in art: the combination of the aural and the visual. As Ms. London has observed, "Sound art stimulates the observer's visual imagination."

Sound works may take various forms and pursue different strategies. They may contain natural elements, present narratives, incorporate instrumental tones, or consist of fabrications made with the electronic synthesizer. California artist Maggie Payne, who teaches at the Center for New Music at Mills College in Oakland, used the Moog synthesizer to compose her Lunar Earthrise (June 25 - July 8), which is concerned, as she puts it, with the "spatial location of sounds and complex timbral changes." In Organ Grinder (July 9 - 22), Julia Heyward combines a monologue with sounds from a toy music box to create an eerie environment. Ms. Heyward, widely known for her "performance" works, recently was seen in the "Custom and Culture" series at the New York Customs House. Connie Beckley, who explores

time, harmonic principles, and melodic movement in her work, focuses on the separation of sounds in The Note (July 23 - August 5).

Sound art is another manifestation of the increasing contemporary tendency to extend the range of artistic possibilities by moving between different mediums and exploring new modes of presentation. "Today it is accepted that artists experiment widely in the arts," Ms. London notes. "There is extensive use of non-traditional materials and sites, as well as active interdisciplinary collaboration. Artists select mediums which are appropriate to an idea, and work in response to the particular environment. Today sound is central to many art, dance, music, and theater events. Aural and visual images are being combined in the form of videotapes, performances, and installations, while in other situations sound is the only component. 'Sound art' pieces are more closely allied to art than to music, and are usually presented in the museum, gallery, or alternative space."

All the SOUND ART works will be presented in the Museum's Auditorium Gallery. In conjunction with the exhibition, issues of Audio Arts magazine may be heard by appointment in the Reading Room of the Museum Library.

SOUND ART is made possible by a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts.

#### SCHEDULE

June 25 - July 8:	Maggie Payne, <u>Lunar Earthrise</u> .	1978.	12:43 minutes.
July 9 - July 22:	Julia Heyward, <u>Organ Grinder</u> .	1979.	12 minutes.
July 23 - August 5:	Connie Beckley, <u>The Note</u> .	1979.	12 minutes.

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