

**Instant Places contact : i b i r s e <at> g m a i l <dot> c o m**

### **Laura Kavanaugh and Ian Birse (aka Instant Places) : Biography**

Laura Kavanaugh and Ian Birse create interactive audiovisual performances and generative installation works for galleries and online platforms, using constantly-evolving hardware/software systems that integrate physical and virtual image and sound sources, touch-sensitive interfaces, and algorithmic responses from handmade software instruments. Their Instant Places collaboration has been a central focus for over 20 years: since 1997 they have realized performances, installations, and telematic works on location across the Americas, Europe, Japan, and Australia.

In spring 2019 they presented *Breathing Room* at Thames Gallery Chatham, an immersive audiovisual space that was generated in real time for the main gallery March—May 2019, with an online iteration that generates audiovisual compositions in perpetuity at [instantplaces.ca/Breathing-Room/](http://instantplaces.ca/Breathing-Room/), and *POD DREAMERS RADIO HOME*, an online generative work that included live exchanges and performances for the Art's Birthday international telematics celebration in January 2019. In late 2018 they conducted residency work in Ireland and Scotland that they completed with audiovisual performances in Birmingham and Glasgow.

Over 2016/2017 they premiered three new generative artworks inspired by the forms and processes of lichen symbiosis: *RhizoGeographicum* (Gallery Stratford), *Xanthoria Elegans* (Art-Image, Gatineau), and *CARBON SUGAR AIR*, an online generative system that improvises and streams three-minute sound sculptures in real time. From September through December 2016 Kavanaugh and Birse realized self-directed residencies throughout the United Kingdom; highlights were performances in Liverpool with the Liverpool Improvisation Collective, an audio performance at SonADA Festival (Aberdeen), and the premiere of a new work for generative visuals and realtime composition in Glasgow at GIOFest 2016.

In 2014/2015 they presented installation/performance iterations of their generative/interactive work *SLEEPER* at New Music Kingston, the M:ST Festival Calgary, FIMAV Victoriaville, and the Museum of Vancouver during the 2015 ISEA colloquium.

From 2010—2013 they installed immersive generative audiovisual spaces for the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, Peterborough Art Gallery, Interaccess (Toronto), the JNAAG (Sarnia), and NAISA/ NXNE Toronto, and presented mobile artlab/broadcasting projects at Sound Symposium (St. John's) and Truck Gallery (Calgary). During 2003—2010 they realized location artworks from coast-to-coast in Canada, and across Australia (2004), Japan (2008), the United States (2008/2009), and South America (2009); from 1997 to 2002 they created artworks on location throughout Canada and, in Europe, for the Kassel Documentary Film Festival, BACKUP festival (Weimar), LEM Festival (Barcelona), and the Audio Art Festival (Krakow).

### **CV**

#### **Instant Places 2001—2019 (collaborative projects Laura Kavanaugh/Ian Birse)**

**Canada/UK 2009—2019 >> May 27—June 6, 2019 :: Common Waters, Idea Exchange Cambridge, initial fieldwork residency. May 1—5, 2019 :: Fieldwork residency at Thames Gallery Chatham, audiovisual performance May 2, artist talk/demo May 3, field recording/digital manipulation**

workshop May 4. **March 15—May 5, 2019 :: Breathing Room installation at Thames Gallery Chatham**, generative audiovisual space, double-wide projection, eight-channel 3D audio. **February 9, 2019 :: Megaphono Festival, Ottawa**, audio performance with altered guitar, modular synthesis. **January 18, 2019 :: Webcast performance**, collaboration between Sound of the Mountain (Elizabeth Millar and Craig Pedersen) and Instant Places, streaming at instantplaces.ca. **January 17—January 27, 2019 :: POD DREAMERS RADIO HOME**, Generative audiovisual installation, streaming 24/7 at instantplaces.ca. **December 1, 2018 :: GIOFest XI, Center for Contemporary Arts, Glasgow, Scotland**, performance for live analog/digital sound and generative visuals. **November 23, 2018 :: Flatpack Film Festival/Fizzle, Birmingham, UK**, performance for live analog/digital sound and generative visuals. **September 21, 2018 :: IMOO Fest 2018, Ottawa ON**, audio performance, Kavanaugh/Birse with David Jackson and Mark Molnar. **April 21, 2018 :: Institute for Advanced Computational Science, New York, NowNet Arts 2018**, Networked sound performance between Hull Quebec, Beijing, Calgary, and Stony Brook New York. **February 21, 2018 :: Instant Places livestream**, Carbon Sugar Air closing performance, analog/digital audio, Laura Kavanaugh and Ian Birse. **February 12, 2018 :: Webcast of streaming music collaboration**, live bi-directional link between Elizabeth Millar and Craig Pedersen in Victoria BC and Laura Kavanaugh/Ian Birse in Hull, Quebec. **January 17—February 21, 2018 :: Carbon Sugar Air 2018**, online generative audio installation. **November 13—21, 2017 :: New Adventures In Sound Art residency space, Deer Lake Ontario** : Integration of CV control for analog synthesis via DC-coupled audio interface. **August 2, 2017 :: La Fonderie, Gatineau, QC :: Co-presentation with AXENEO7/ Canada Scene**. Sound performance using extreme physical spatializations in 58,000 square foot converted warehouse, with Rory Magill and Linsey Wellman. **August 6, 2017 :: General Assembly, Ottawa, ON :: Co-presentation with Improvising Musicians of Ottawa/Outaouais**, Collaborative sound performance merging acoustic sources with electronics, with Raymond MacDonald (Glasgow Improvisor's Orchestra), David Broscoe and David Jackson (IMOO). **October 8, 2017 :: General Assembly, Ottawa, ON :: Co-presentation with Improvising Musicians of Ottawa/Outaouais**, Collaborative sound performance focusing on real-time electronics, with Simon Labelle (feedback systems) and David Jackson (analog electronics). **June 7—17, 2017 :: Victoria BC, GRASS PILLOW**, Biospheric art practice residency. **May 17—31, 2017 :: Halifax NS, New music residency, SKIN OF SKIN**, performance for live electroacoustics and generative visuals, OBEY Convention festival May 26. **May 29, SuddenlyListen new music**, Workshop, Intuitive strategies for improvisation. **March 23—May 21, 2017 :: Art-Image, Gatineau QC, XANTHORIA ELEGANS**, Generative installation, 19-channel 3D sound, double-wide projections. **January 17— February 28, 2017 :: Deep Wireless Festival, New Adventures in Sound Art, CARBON SUGAR AIR 2017**, online generative audio installation. **January 17, 2017 :: Grass Pillow (Telematic)**, Telematic performance between Tina Pearson (Victoria BC) and Laura Kavanaugh/Ian Birse (Hull QC), streamed live to Ars Acustica satellite radio in Vienna. **December 8, 2016 :: DAÏMON, Gatineau QC, ELECTRONS LIBRE**, Audio performance, custom software/hardware. **November 26, 2016 :: Centre for Contemporary Art, Glasgow Scotland, GIOFest IX**, Audio performance, generative visuals, custom software/hardware. **November 10, 2016 :: The Noise Upstairs, Manchester UK**, Audio performance, custom software/hardware. **October 27—29, 2016 :: Bluecoat Art Centre, Liverpool UK**, Audio performance, collaboration with improvising dancers Company Blu (Italy) and Liverpool Improvisation Collective (UK) **October 25, 2016 :: Oscilloscope, Bangor Wales**, Audio performance, custom software/hardware. **October 1, 2016 :: SonADA Festival, Aberdeen Scotland**, Audio performance, custom software/hardware. **September 10—November 27, 2016 :: University of Waterloo, Stratford ON, SLEEPER\_VERTICAL**, generative animation installation for three-story digital display. **September 10—November 27, 2016 :: Gallery Stratford, Stratford ON, RHIZOGEOGRAPHICUM**, Generative

audiovisual environment, three-channel projections, four-channel sound. **July 8, 2016 :: SawVideo Ottawa**, Audio performance, live TV taping with ESP TV (NYC). **June 27—July 1, 2016 :: Hexagram, Montreal**, Multi-channel audio residency, collaboration with Elizabeth Millar and Craig Pedersen. Performances July 2 (Kingston) and July 3 (Ottawa). **February 17, 2016 :: DAÏMON, Gatineau QC**, DOUBLE/VERTICAL, Performance for generative visuals and six-channel sound. **November 15—22, 2015 :: Norfolk County Carillon Tower, Simcoe ON**, CLOSENESS, Completion of public audiowork radiating from 23-bell carillon. **August 16, 2015 :: Museum of Vancouver**, SLEEPER\_Live04, Performance of live electroacoustics at International Symposium on Electronic Art 2015, four-channel sound field, generative projection. **May 15, 2015 :: Festival International de Musique Actuelle Victoriaville**, SLEEPER\_Live03, Audio performance, stereo sound field, single-channel generative projection. **October 24, 2014:: Tone Deaf Festival, Kingston**, SLEEPER\_LIVE02, Performance in surround audio space, single-channel generative HD projection. **October 7, 2014 :: MST:7 Performance Festival, Calgary**, SLEEPER\_LIVE01, Three-hour performance in surround audio space, generative wide-angle twin projection. **August 14—16, 2014 :: Norfolk County Carillon Tower, Simcoe ON**, CLOSENESS phase one, interventions in carillon structure. **August 1, 2014 :: SoundTracks, SAW Video, Ottawa**, CENTAUR, Live sound component for animations by Pixie Cram, four-channel audio space. **April 28—30, 2014 :: DAIMON media centre, Gatineau QC**, Spatial Improvisation residency, public performance April 30. Laura Kavanaugh (realtime sampling, custom hardware/software system), Ian Birse (altered guitar, custom hardware/software system), Craig Pedersen (trumpet and electronics), Linsey Wellman (clarinet, bass clarinet). **Saturday, November 9th, 2013 :: Improvising Musicians of Ottawa/Outaouais, IMOOFEST 2013**. Breath-controlled audio feedback matrix, performance collaboration with Christine Duncan/Jean Martin and the IMOO Orchestra. **September 22—October 8, 2013 :: Vaste et Vague, Carleton-sur-mer QC**. Creation residency. Series of internet broadcasts based on audio interventions in the residency structure. **June 11—22, 2013 :: New Adventures in Sound Art/NXNE Festival, Toronto**. ELASTIC PLANETS, generative audiovisual installation in 12-channel cube audio space. **February 1—21, 2013 :: Judith and Norman Alix Gallery, Sarnia ON**. <building: 147 Lochiel>, Generative alcove triptych and lobby window projections. **January 8—20, 2013 :: Judith and Norman Alix Gallery, Sarnia ON**. Creation residency, <building: 147 Lochiel> generative artworks, 10-hour webcast of telematics during Art's Birthday 2013. **October 6, 2012 :: IMOOFEST, Ottawa ON**. New music performance, live sampling of voice and modified guitar. **September 19 —October 21, 2012 :: InterAccess, Toronto**. <building: 9 Ossington>, two networked computers running Max/ MSP programs generating co-ordinated audiovisual fields. 21 channel sound (audio transducers on 16 suspended pine panels, drivers on two sub-floor heating ducts, two floor-mounted bass shakers), video expanse stretched across two monitors. **July 20—30, 2012 :: CAMPER, Truck Gallery, Calgary**. Performance artlab in converted camper van, audiovisual broadcasts to mobile devices. **July 9—15, 2012 :: Sound Symposium, St. John's Nfld**. Webcam/sound performances and generative audiovisual broadcasts. **January 11, 2012 :: Soundasaurus Festival, Calgary**. Performance of audio transforms and 3D visuals, collaboration with Jasmin Poon, quartz resonators. **October 2011 :: Competition for Somerset West Public Art Project, Ottawa**. Second stage finalist. **January 15 —17, 2011 :: Art's Birthday 2011, Instant Places studio, Hull QC**, Streaming audio installation and distance collaborations. **September 17— October 31, 2010 :: Art Gallery of Peterborough**, Generative audiovisual installation. **July 17—25, 2010 :: Batoche, Saskatchewan**, Artists in residence, 125th commemoration of 1885 Rebellion. **February 4—21, 2010 :: Instant Places Canada Code, Vancouver 2010**, generative audiovisual installation, Cultural Olympic Digital Edition exhibition. **August 29—December 12, 2009 :: CanadaWide**. Travel via surface transport from Makkovik Labrador to British

Columbia. Location sound and image recordings, 22 performances across Canada.

**Argentina/Uruguay 2009** >> **May 7, 2009 :: Buenos Aires node of Alvin Lucier's "Quasimodo, the Great Lover"**, International telematic realization for the Deep Wireless festival, Toronto. **May 9, 2009 :: Encuentros de Cooperación e Intercambio**, Live transforms of sounds and images from Buenos Aires. **May 28/29 2009 :: Live webcast relay**, ElephanteCasa in Buenos Aires to CJSW 90.9 FM in Calgary. **July 17, 2009 :: Museo de Arte Moderno y la Alianza Francesa de Buenos Aires, TANGLO II**, live sound and video performance. **July 19—22, 2009 :: Auditorio de la Facultad de Artes, Montevideo**, Instant Places/Punta Carretas, location intermedia project completed by a live sound and video performance July 22.

**New York 2009 :: March 1—14, 2009 :: Diapason Gallery residency**, Concluding performances for multichannel sound and live video March 13 and 14. **March 22, 2009 :: ABC No Rio**, sound performance. Laura Kavanaugh (MAX/MSP live sampling), Blaise Siwula (reeds), Ian Birse (piano, contact pickup). **March 24, 2009 :: Goodbye Blue Monday** Max/MSP mutations of location recordings and amplified objects from the Coney Island shore. **March 29, 2009 :: Issue Project Room**, Live sound and video performance at SHARE NYC.

**Toronto/Chicago/Japan 2008 :: October 7—26, 2008 :: SoundPlay Festival, Toronto**, Composers in residence, New Adventures in Sound Art. Artist talk and premiere of HEAD! SMASHED! IN! BUFFALO! JUMP! October 24, performance for 12 speaker sound array and live video. **September 3—7, 2008 :: Junction Festival, Toronto**, CITIZEN, public projection project, image generation transforms of resident's portraits. **June 15, 2008 :: WLUW FM, Chicago**, 53 MISTAKES, four-hour live to air performance. **June 7, 2008 :: Heaven Gallery, Chicago**, UPSIDE, live sound and image transforms. **May 12—16, 2008 :: InCUBATE, Chicago**, Street-level projection events transforming storefront to video screen. **April 10—14, 2008 :: Birdo Flugas, Shioyama/Sendai**, Live sound and image manipulations in shopping arcade, also webcast relay April 11 to the Audio over Networks conference at the Banff Centre, Canada. **April 8, 2008 :: Superdeluxe, Tokyo**, TOKYO RODEO, live image/sound transforms in four-channel sound space. **March 21—23, 2008 :: Radio Son Verde, Tokyo**, ONOMAT series of 'pirate radio' broadcasts, relay to Resonance FM London on March 22. **February 22, 2008 :: Cafe Independants, Kyoto**, Image transforms and live sound manipulations of location recordings and prepared piano. **February 16, 2008 :: Art Space Tetra, Fukuoka**, INSTANT PLACES FUKUOKA, February 8 performance of amplified drawing/live video and trussed guitar, February 15 internet audio relay to CJSW FM in Calgary, February 16 performance completion of Instant Places, image transforms and live multichannel sound.

**Canada 2005—2007 :: Removable Room, mobile artlab projects** > **September 25—27, 2007 ::** The Guild Inn, Scarborough ON. **May 8—12, 2007 :: Send + Receive Festival**, Winnipeg MB. **January 16—20, 2007 :: Neutral Ground**, Regina SK. **October 25—28, 2006 :: Pen Centre**, St. Catharines ON. **October 9—14, 2006 :: Tone Deaf Festival**, Kingston ON. <*removableroom* **September 20—22, 2007 :: London Ontario Live Arts festival**, INSTANT PLACES/LONDON, nightly performances in downtown courtyard, video projections on library wall, four-channel sound. **April 4—April 28, 2007 :: Western Front, Vancouver BC**, OPERATOR, noise opera using overheard cellphone monologues and computer-controlled grand piano. **March 23—May 13, 2007 :: Art Gallery of Greater Victoria**, THE FORTRESS OF HISTORY, offsite performances, gallery installation, interventions in the AGGV virtual gallery. **March 7—17, 2006 :: Instant Places, Videographe/PARC, Montreal**, SOUFFLE, open studio

sessions leading to performance diffusion of sounds and images from Montreal streets, multichannel sound field and network of nine video screens. **November 18, 2005 :: Perimeter Institute, Waterloo ON**, Live video for Steve Reich's CITY LIFE, commissioned by NUMUS and the Kitchener/Waterloo Symphony.

**Australia/Canada 2003—2004 :: November 16, 2004 :: Biennale of Electronic Art Perth 04**, Audio/video performance, also collaboration with Perth violist Cathy Potter. **November 11—14, 2004 :: Perth Institute of Contemporary Art + BEAP 04, COLLECTOR\_1**, collaboration project integrating digitized work from Perth artists Chrissie Parrot (dance), Rob Muir (text), Cat Hope (music), and Tanja Visosevic (images). Final audio/video performance by Kavanaugh and Birse November 14. **October 8—November 8, 2004 :: Instant Places/Kellerberrin, Australia, EAST IS EAST**, audio/video installation and performances during one-month residency. **September 30—October 3, 2004 :: Instant Places/Newcastle, Australia**, Open-studio installation/performance presented by the Electrofringe Festival. **May 12—23, 2004 :: AMAAS Conference Grande Prairie, Alberta, SLOWERTHANLIGHT**, solar power audio/video environment in travel trailer. **April 10—17, 2004 :: Instant Places/Images Festival Toronto, BEELINE**, self-generating installation and performance environment. **October 24, 2003 :: Dangerous Currents Festival, Vancouver New Music, STATIC**, surround audio/video performance. **May 16, 2003 :: Festival International de Musique Actuelle Victoriaville, PRIMITIVES**, audio/video installation and performance in surround space. **Instant Places artlab projects, Canada 2003 ::** October 12—18 **Open Space, Victoria** / September 15—20 **Khyber, Halifax** / September 8—12 **Sequence, Chicoutimi** / May 7—11 **Open Ears Festival, Kitchener**.

**Europe 2001—2002 :: Nov. 21, 2002 :: LEM Festival, Barcelona, Spain, AIRPORT**, audio/video performance. **Nov. 14—17, 2002 :: Interfiction/Artefaction!, Kassel Documentary Film Festival, SPLICE**, three-day internet/performance piece created on site. **Nov. 1—10, 2002 :: LoungeLab / Backup Festival Weimar, Germany**, November 7—9, interactive audiovisual kiosk. November 7, **OPENING NIGHT/CLOSING NIGHT**, mobile sampling and playback of reception sounds. Nov. 8, **DUST**, electronic sound performance. **Nov. 2, 2001 :: Audio Art Festival, Krakow, Poland, SLOW**; audio/video performance. **Oct. 19, 2001 :: Studio of Janos Sugar, Budapest, OPEN**; four-hour performance using real-time sampling of audio and video.

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### **Laura Kavanaugh and Ian Birse (aka Instant Places) : Biography**

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