

## Instant Places: Laura Kavanaugh and Ian Birse

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In their Instant Places projects Kavanaugh and Birse use hardware/software systems of their own design to present generative installations and performances. They began making performances and installations as a team in 1997, and from 1997 to 2002 traveled throughout Canada and Europe, making installation and performance works for festival venues and art galleries. Highlights from that period include projects for the Kassel Documentary Film Festival, BACKUP festival (Weimar), LEM Festival (Barcelona), LOGOS Foundation (Belgium), and the Audio Art Festival (Krakow). From 2003—2010 they realized Instant Places projects on location across Canada, Australia (2004), Japan (2008), the United States (2008/2009), and South America (2009). Since basing themselves in Hull, Quebec in 2010, they have created installations of generative art for the Peterborough Art Gallery (October 2010), Interaccess, Toronto (September 2012), and The JNAAG in Sarnia (February 2013), and NAISA/NXNE Toronto (2013), as well as mobile broadcasting projects for Sound Symposium, St. John's, and Truck Gallery's CAMPER in Calgary. Most recently Laura and Ian have been presenting performance and installation iterations of a new generative/interactive audiovisual artwork entitled SLEEPER.

View detailed biography PDF —> [here](#)

### Canada 2009—2015

**August 16, 2015 :: Museum of Vancouver, SLEEPER\_Live04**, performance of live electroacoustics at ISEA 2015, four-channel sound field, generative projection. **May 15, 2015 :: Festival International de Musique Actuelle Victoriaville, SLEEPER\_Live03**, performance of live electro-acoustics, stereo sound field, single-channel generative projection. **October 24, 2014 :: Tone Deaf Festival, Kingston, SLEEPER\_LIVE02**, Performance in surround audio space, single-channel HD projection. **October 7, 2014 :: MST:7 Performance Festival, Calgary, SLEEPER\_LIVE01**, Three-hour performance in surround audio space, wide-angle twin projection. **August 14—16, 2014 :: Norfolk County Carillon Tower, Simcoe ON, CLOSENESS phase one.** <instantplaces-canadawide.blogspot.ca/>. **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). **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"**, an 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, collaboration with Darren Copeland. Live to air preview CKLN FM October 9, workshop on media performance October 26. **September 3—7, 2008 :: Junction Festival, Toronto**, CITIZEN, public projection project, image generation transforms of resident's portraits. **June 15, 2008 :: WLW 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, Shiogama/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 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.

## **Canada 2004—2003**

**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 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 and manipulation of audio and video.