



Art in America

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Tcherepnin and Cox Lecture Experimentally at Recess

by Matthew Shen Goodman



The roving Center for Experimental Lectures will host two talks at the SoHo location of studio/exhibition space hybrid Recess tomorrow, Jan. 7. On the roster are philosopher and curator Christoph Cox and artist Sergei Tcherepnin. Cox, a professor of philosophy at Hampshire College, will present "Matter (In Several Phases)," a collage of sounds, images and texts by artists and theorists including Luke Fowler, Jana Winderen, Manuel DeLanda and Joyce Hinterding. Tcherepnin, who was part of the Museum of Modern Art's recent sound art show "Soundings" and is included in the 2014 Whitney Biennial, will examine the sensuality of listening and queer experiences with sound in a three-part presentation titled "In Search of Queer Sound."

Founded in 2011 and directed by artist Gordon Hall, the Center will present a series of lectures and seminars at New York's Whitney Museum of American Art in conjunction with the 2014 Biennial. *A.i.A.* spoke with Hall by phone about tomorrow's lectures and the Center's experimental bent.

MATTHEW SHEN GOODMAN What led you to start the Center for Experimental Lectures?

GORDON HALL I'm an artist, but I've always worked with a number of different kinds of projects. I have a dance background, but I also make sculpture and performances, and I ran a gallery in Boston. I was thinking a lot about platforms, and how different sorts of platforms allow for, or disallow, content creation—how the way we do things determines what we can do, and how we embody knowledge in different ways.

In 2011 I was in graduate school, so I'd been going to a lot of artists' talks and academic lectures. I realized a lecture is essentially a performance on some level, and I thought it would be interesting to put all that energy that we put into what we usually do as artists into a talk. With the Center, you're not giving a lecture about your work, the lecture *is* your work in some kind of vital way.

SHEN GOODMAN Given the typically auditory nature of the lecture, has sound been a recurring theme?

HALL There was an event organized with Recess and artist Christine Sun Kim that had to do with how to express oneself without using the audible voice, and the upcoming talks are unofficially themed around the materiality of sound. Christoph Cox isn't going to be speaking as himself at all, actually, as he's going to stitch together a narrative with projectors and samples of sounds and texts. Sergei will be working out sound's relationship to the body in connection with gender and sexuality. The first part of his lecture is going to be a more typical presentation, involving research about tonality and embodiments and the way we hear sound. The middle part will have an appearance—that's all I can

say—and the final section will be a call-in show, where people will be asking questions about gender and sexuality. Sergei's going to answer by producing abstract sounds.

When we say experimental lectures, we really mean the word "experimental." Sometimes it won't cohere or run 100 percent smoothly, but things are getting produced that wouldn't be otherwise. I only want to do this project if it involves risk.