

"Bill Fontana/Sound Recycling Sculpture: Incoming Wavefronts Meeting a Shape of Land Over Time" on exhibit

September 12, 1980

A sound sculpture created from the sound of waves breaking along the La Jolla shoreline will be featured in "Bill Fontana/Sound Recycling Sculpture: Incoming Wavefronts Meeting a Shape of Land Over Time," opening September 26 in the Mandeville Art Gallery at the University of California, San Diego.

An opening reception for the artist is scheduled from 7-9 p.m. September 26 in the gallery. At 8 p.m., Fontana will present a performance called "Wave Spiral."

The Fontana work will be featured in the gallery through October 17. Gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m. Sunday through Friday and 7-10 p.m. Wednesday. Admission is free.

The sculpture will consist of the live broadcast of waves breaking along the shore from Seal Rock to Point La Jolla. Eight microphones will monitor the sound, which will be transmitted via broadcast quality telephone lines to loudspeakers in the gallery.

Fontana is a pioneer in developing sculpture from multi-channel field recordings. His works have been installed in the Los Angeles Institute of Contemporary Art, the College for Creative Studies at UC Santa Barbara and at San Francisco City Hall.

He created several multi-channel recordings for the National Gallery of Victoria, Australia, and his work was included in an exhibition in the Akademie der Kunst, West Berlin.

Fontana's most recent sound sculpture was broadcast in the Federal Reserve Plaza in Cincinnati. The Cincinnati piece consisted of the continuous simulcast of eight microphones placed along the Cincinnati-Covington Suspension Bridge.

Another recent work was entitled "Flight Paths Out to Sea," and was created from the live broadcast of six microphones located along the flight paths of planes taking off from the John Wayne Airport. The sound of the planes, intermingled with the sound of the environment surrounding each microphone, was broadcast in the Newport Harbor Art Museum Sculpture Garden.

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