

Sounding Out! Podcast #34: Sonia Li's "Whale"

sonialidesigns

Blog post published August 28, 2014 in *Sounding Out!*

<https://doi.org/10.59350/c85sd-gek65>

Abstract

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Keywords

Music (Subfield), Animals/Animal Studies, Identity, Listening, Performance, Podcast

Recommended citation

sonialidesigns. (2014, August 28). Sounding Out! Podcast #34: Sonia Li's "Whale". *Sounding Out!*.

<https://doi.org/10.59350/c85sd-gek65>

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Reflecting on *Whale*, an interactive, multichannel sound installation, this sound art piece documents how the installation came about. When designing *Whale*, Sonia Li used sound to communicate the often visceral emotions underlying her personal narrative.

Whale creates an environment where one experiences oneself. By laying in darkness on a subsonic vibrating bed, users openly confess their thoughts and feelings into a sonic field, which then translates their words into correlating amplitudes of whale sounds. This process of transduction prompts listeners to consider how sound works to shape a perception of themselves as they hear a distant and alien rendering of their own voice. By experiencing *Whale* we can consider how sound challenges our physiological and psychological perceptions of self.

<https://vimeo.com/81896971>

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[Sonia Li](#) is a Brooklyn based artist, designer, and creative technologist. She holds a Masters in Interactive Design from ITP/NYU, 2014, and a BFA in Interdisciplinary Sculpture/Papermaking from SUNY Purchase, 2005.

Sonia has performed with musicians, exhibited in various group shows, and has been featured on various websites such as Prosoundnetwork.com, [create-hub.com](#), [modcloth.com](#) blog, and [fashionista.com](#). She produced soundscapes for the Poison exhibition/iPad app at the American Museum of Natural History, worked in Art Direction for film, architectural lighting, and Art Studio Manager positions.

Sonia is currently working on designing private art storage facilities and personal projects. To find out more about her work, go to www.soniali.org/artandtech

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