SO! Amplifies: Basilica Hudson's 24-HOUR DRONE

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Abstract

***SO!* Amplifies. . .a highly-curated, rolling mini-post series by which we editors hip you to cultural makers and organizations doing work we really really dig.**

Keywords

Music (Subfield), Acoustics, SO! Amplifies, Sound Art, Sound Studies, Soundscapes



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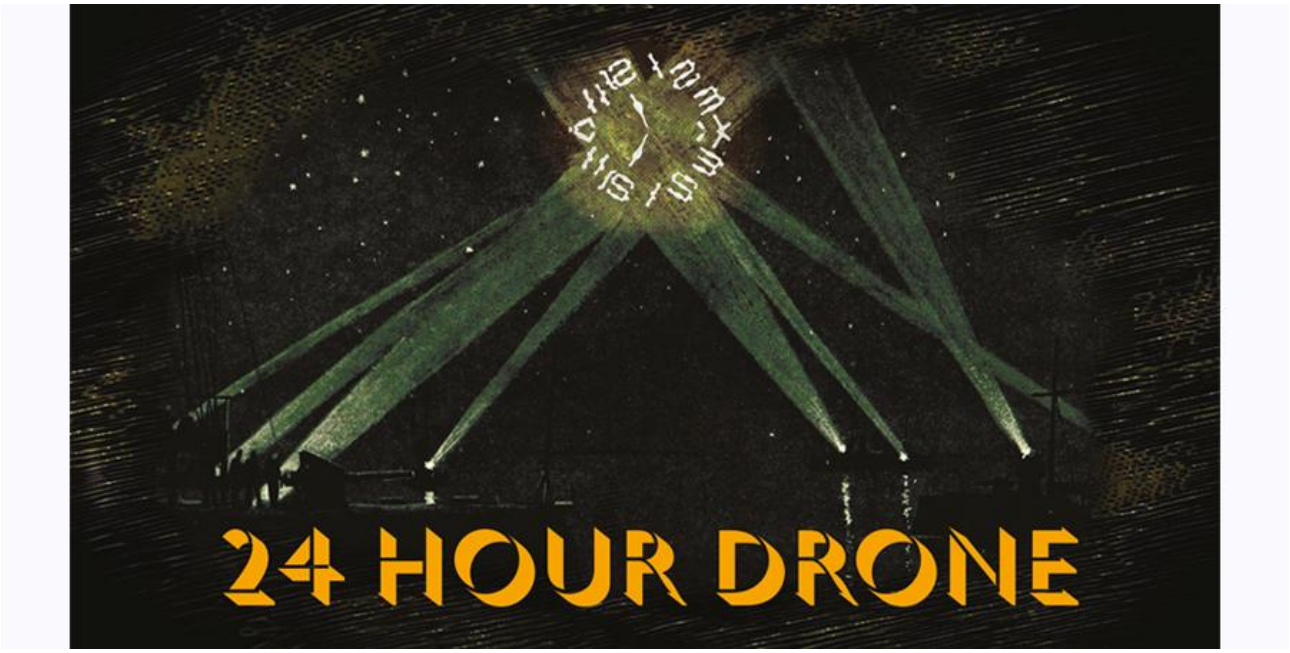
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***SO!* Amplifies. . .a highly-curated, rolling mini-post series by which we editors hip you to cultural makers and organizations doing work we really really dig. You're welcome!**

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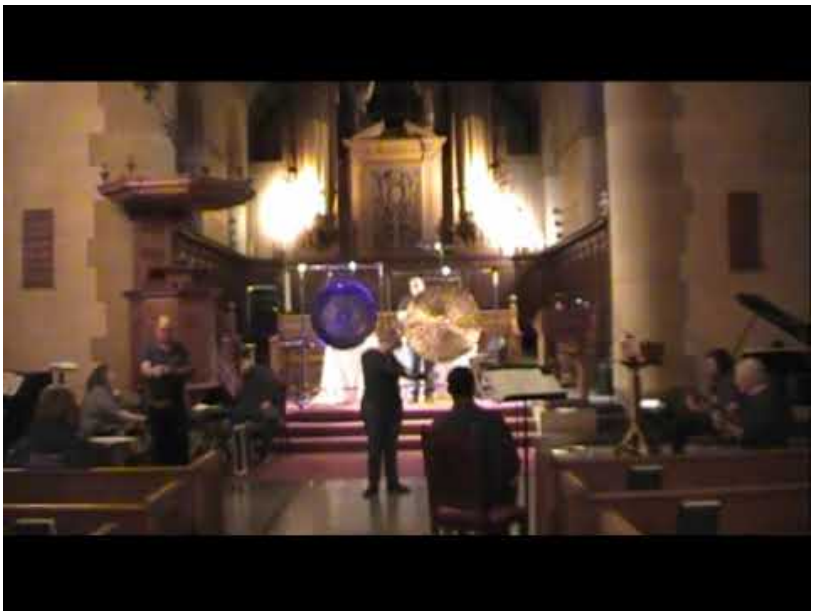
Twenty-four hours of uninterrupted sound: this was the auditory aspiration of Melissa Auf der Maur and Tony Stone–co-founders of Basilica Hudson–and their houseguest, Bob van Heur, co-founder of Le Guess Who? festival in the Netherlands. Basilica Hudson, a nonprofit artistic collective in downstate New York, has a proven history of adventurous projects that stretch the limits of the audience's expectations. From noon on April 28, 2018 to noon on April 29, they will be producing a project that's become something of a classic for the group to kick off their season: a 24-hour sound drone.



"It's a really singular event, and you really come out of it being transformed," said Kate Hewett, the program marketing and communications manager for Basilica Hudson. "It's so unusual to be surrounded by sound in a long-form situation like that. It's rare that you get to experience the interplay between different kind of artists and performances … it's one of our favorite events."

This is the third year that Basilica Hudson had compiled artists from the drone, and each year the lineup is changed. The project is sourced to both local and international sound artists, via a process that includes both an open call submissions period as well as staff reaching out to composers and collectives individually. The product is an experience that is both sonic and tactile; while the drone roves through the space and fills the converted factory with sound, participants are encouraged to bring in mats or chairs and stay through the entire 24-hour

period. Some of the artists who will be played through the drone include Bill Brovold and the Mystical Miniature Orchestra, Hudson Boys Club and New London Drone Orchestra.



https://youtu.be/JQ6-rSs6yfM

"The open call submissions period is really key to making the 24-HOUR DRONE happen," Hewett said. The vision behind it is to always access new artist who haven't played here previously, maybe artists who haven't played in the Hudson Valley before as well as being able to showcase the incredible local talent that is offered in the region … from there, it's really a case of weaving together a multidisciplinary lineup. The aim is to cross genres and be able to showcase lots of different kinds of artists who are all working within the rough framework of drone."

While no live performances fit the bill of the event, there are 24-hour projects that happen in tandem with the drone. For one, a weaver will sit in Basilica's space and use the loom for 24 hours. In another example, healers will enter the premises to perform 24-hour reiki.

"People are free to come and go as they wish — you don't have to commit to the full 24 hours. But a lot of people do come, bring a yoga mat, and camp out for the whole time," Hewett said. "The enjoyment and the really immersive experience is what it's about, and what's most important."



Basilica Hudson is located in a solar-powered reclaimed 1880s industrial factory on the waterfront of upstate New York city of Hudson.

This season, the 24-HOUR DRONE will not be the only sound-related exhibition at Basilica Hudson. From Sept. 14 to 16, the collective will host Basilica Soundscape, a weekend of live music and art. The lineup has yet to be announced.

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All images courtesy of Basilica Hudson

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Shauna Bahssin *is a junior at Binghamton University who double-majors in English and art history. She currently serves as managing for the student newspaper,* Pipe Dream*, and has written for its news and arts and culture sections in the past. Outside of the paper, she is involved with the university's fundraising initiatives through the Binghamton Telefund, and she hopes to work within the field of arts development and advancement after she graduates.*

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