

SOUNDSCAPES OF THE ANTHROPOCENE

Anthropocene Campus Chicago, 22-26 October, 2025

organized by Paul Dickinson, Beate Geissler, localStyle (Marlena Novak and Jay Alan Yim), Oliver Sann

contributions by

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At the Anthropocene Campus Chicago, artists will use sound as both intermission and reflection within the program. These sonic intervals are often not traditional compositions but curated slices of acoustic reality – experiential rooms that open between sessions, inviting pause, presence, and recalibration.

Drawing on Pauline Oliveros's practice of Deep Listening, these intermissions cultivate attention to both sound and the act of listening itself. They offer a moment of attunement – to the room, to one another, and to the subtle vibrations that underlie the world we share.

Listening becomes a mode of awareness, a way of feeling the contours of time and environment.

Soundscapes are more than ambient background. They are ecological, political, and aesthetic terrains – mirrors and measures of a changing planet. Composed of geophony (earth and elements), biophony (living beings), and anthrophony (human activity), they form the shifting sonic totality of place. Within this totality, the fragility of geophonic and biophonic layers under the pressure of anthrophonic noise

becomes audible, transforming the soundscape into both a site of reflection and a diagnostic of the Anthropocene.

Each soundscape is also a memory-scape, carrying traces of ecological and cultural histories – of access, exclusion, preservation, and neglect. To listen deeply is to acknowledge our entanglement with these histories and to sense how they continue to reverberate. Thus, the soundscape intermissions of the Anthropocene Campus Chicago are not pauses from the program but integral to it – sonic interventions that expand the space of reflection, reminding us that beneath and beyond our words lies a resonant world of shared vibration.

COME AND LISTEN WITH US