



ARCTICNOISE

AN EXHIBITION BY

GERONIMO INUTIQ (MADESKIMO)

ARCTIC ECHOES, ARCTIC NOISES

On the evening of Dec. 28, 1967 the CBC Radio programme Ideas first broadcast The Idea of North, an experimental “contrapuntal radio documentary” by celebrated Canadian pianist Glenn Gould. The piece, which runs just shy of an hour, carefully interweaves the voices of various characters, including: an anthropologist; sociologist; prospector; government employee; nurse and surveyor, to form a complex narrative centered on the idea of the North vs. the reality of lived experience. The documentary is comprised of voices from “individuals with direct experience of the North.” Gould, himself notes:

“I’ve long been intrigued by that incredible tapestry of tundra and taiga which constitutes the Arctic and Subarctic of our country. I’ve read about it, written about it and even pulled up my parka once and gone there; yet, like all but a very few Canadians, I’ve had no real experience of the North. I’ve remained, of necessity, an outsider. And the North has remained for me a convenient place to dream about, spin tall tales about, and in the end, avoid.”

Gould produces, through his narrators, a broadcast about the North for a southern audience that corresponds to both his own investment in researching solitude and to depicting a version of arctic life devoid of community. Tellingly, for the majority of southern Canadians who have spent a lifetime dreaming of the North, this dream remains both romantic and elusive, shaped largely by the depictions, fictions and visions by various governing and pedagogical bodies. Gould’s Idea of the North is one such example in a long line of “Arctic Imaginings” that privilege an abstracted representation of the North, at the expense of allowing circumpolar peoples a platform to tell their own story. The ongoing perpetuation and power of these representations provided the impetus for a different kind of imaging of the North, and therein ARCTICNOISE.

Following a series of discussions and meetings in Montreal and Toronto, artist Geronimo Inutiq and co-curators Britt Gallpen and Yasmin Nurming-Por began a process of collective research into the relationships amongst Gould’s representations and more contemporaneous representations of the North, as well as the role of technology in disseminating these identity-based constructions. This early research led to the identification

of the Igloodik Isuma Archive at the National Gallery of Canada as the ideal research site for the project, chosen for the breadth and variety of its holdings in cinema and television. Igloodik Isuma Productions, Canada's first Inuit production company, was co-founded by Zacharias Kunuk and Norman Cohn in Igloodik, Nunavut in 1990.

This project seeks to provoke dialogues about the changing role of representation beyond fixed identity categories. As an immersive installation, ARCTICNOISE aims to address both abstracted historical and contemporaneous ideas of the North through conflating modes, mediums and methods of representation. Additionally, as an ongoing modular work, ARCTICNOISE will shift formats in subsequent exhibitions, thereby purposefully negating any concrete or authoritative understandings of what the North is or might become..

Written by Britt Gallpen and Yasmin Nurmung-Por

GERONIMO INUTIQ considers himself amongst other things a self-taught and independent electronic & electro-acoustic musician, and multi-media artist. Having been exposed to strong traditional Inuit cultural elements in his youth, as well as the exciting worlds of modern art, and broadcast & media through close members of his kin, he has been able to weave those reference points into his practice in innovative and crafty ways - allowing him to create on his own accord original works, and enter in contract with a wide variety of clients and partners seeking cultural content. Guided by the notion that creative personal expression is a very subjective and individual experience, he is interested in the dialogue that emerges between that individual and increasingly large and complex inter-related circles of socially constructed systems of meaning.

BRITT GALLPEN is a critic and curator based in Toronto, Canada. She is currently the Project Coordinator on Sakkijâjuk, the first major nationally touring exhibition of fine art from Nunatsiavut and co-curator of iNuit Blanche, an all-night, city-wide circumpolar art project scheduled for 2016. Britt is completing an M.A. in Art History and Curatorial Studies from York University, specializing in contemporary Canadian art. Her research considers the shifting landscape of Canadian practice alongside the legacies of iconic Canadian makers. This project is supported by the Social Science & Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). Recent curatorial projects include: Titigi (Toronto) and ARCTICNOISE (Vancouver). Her writing has appeared in Canadian Art, esse art + opinions and KAPSULA among others.

YASMIN NURMING-POR is an independent curator currently based in Toronto, where she completed her M.A. in Art History at the University of Toronto in 2013. She currently holds the position of gallery and exhibitions manager at Diaz Contemporary in Toronto. Her research has focused on the intersection of public performance, community, and temporal dissidence in conceptual practices in Eastern Europe and Latin America. Yasmin is invested in examining the potential for ephemeral and art-based work to provoke, intervene in, and engage with discourse around the idea of community. Yasmin has held research and programming positions at various Canadian and International artist-run centres and galleries, and was a recipient of the Robert and Jacqueline White Graduate Scholarship.

CURATORS:

Guest curated by Yasmin Nurning-Por and Britt Gallpen, produced in conjunction with International Symposium on Electronic Arts (ISEA); Glenn Alteen and Tarah Hogue (grunt gallery); and Kate Hennessy and Trudi Lynn Smith (Ethnographic Terminalia)

EXHIBITION:

ARCTICNOISE by Geronimo Inutiq | Exhibition at grunt gallery

Exhibition Dates: Aug 5 – Aug 22

Reception: **Monday, August 17** (7–10 pm)

Location: Unit 116–350 East 2nd Ave, Vancouver, BC V5T4R8

URL: grunt.ca/exhibitions/arctic-noise/

WORKSHOP:

Aug 15 (9:30 am –5:30 pm)

Terminus: Archives, Ephemera, and Electronic Art
@ VIVO Media Arts Centre

PERFORMANCE:

Aug 15 (8 pm)

Geronimo Inutiq at FUSE/DISTURBANCE
@ The Vancouver Art Gallery

PANEL:

Aug 19 (6:30 pm –8:30 pm)

ARCTICNOISE: DIALOGUES

@ NEC Native Education College

There will be a forthcoming publication for ARCTICNOISE.

Visit grunt.ca and subscribe to our newsletter for more details.



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