Fall 2019 Franke Lectures—The Secret Life of Radio: Fringe Practices of a Mass Medium

The Whitney Humanities Center is pleased to announce the Fall 2019 Franke Lectures in the Humanities, “The Secret Life of Radio: Fringe Practices of a Mass Medium.” This semester’s series has been organized in conjunction with the Yale College seminar taught by Brian Kane. Susan Douglas will deliver the opening lecture, “From Jazz to Rock ‘n’ Roll: Radio as a Turnstile between White and African-American Cultures,” on Monday, September 23.


Other guest speakers and lectures in the series include

**Josh Shepperd, “From Activism to Advocacy: Media Reform Strategies in the Development of U.S. Public Media, 1934–1952,” October 7**

Josh Shepperd is Assistant Professor of Media Studies at Catholic University and National Director of the Library of Congress Radio Preservation Task Force. For 2018–2020 he is a Humanities and Information Fellow at Penn State University and the Sound Fellow of the Library of Congress National Recording Preservation Board. His book project “Shadow of the New Deal: The Victory of Public Broadcasting” is under contract with the University of Illinois Press. It examines the institutional origins of public media in advocacy work conducted by the media reform movement during the New Deal. He is additionally under contract to coauthor the official History of Public Broadcasting with Allison Perlman (UC-Irvine) for *Current* and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.


Galen Joseph-Hunter has served as Executive Director of Wave Farm, a nonprofit arts organization driven by experimentation with broadcast media and the airwaves, since 2002. Wave Farm’s programs—Transmission Arts, WGXC 90.7-FM, and Media Arts Grants—provide access to transmission technologies and support artists and organizations that engage with media as an art form. From 1996 to 2015 Joseph-Hunter worked closely with Electronic Arts Intermix (EAI), serving as Assistant Director and then Executive Consultant. Over the past two decades, she has organized and curated exhibitions and events internationally, including “Wave Farm (in residence)” for TuftsPUBLIC at the Tufts University Art Galleries (2018–2019). She was the co-organizer of “Groundswell,” an annual exhibition event featuring broadcast, performance, sound, and installation works by contemporary artists conceived within the 250 acres of the Olana State Historic Site from 2013 to 2015. In 2015 and 2016 she curated the Columbia University Sound Arts MFA spring exhibitions. She has produced numerous radio programs for Wave Farm’s WGXC and stations internationally, including Climactic Climate for Kunstradio Vienna (2015). Joseph-Hunter is the author of Transmission Arts: Artists and Airwaves (2011) and “Transmission Arts: The Air That Surrounds Us” (PAJ, 2009).

Tom Roe, Artistic Director at Wave Farm, is a sound transmission artist who performs with transmitters and receivers using multiple bands (FM, CB, walkie-talkie), as well as prepared CDs, vinyl records, and electronics. One of the original founders of free103point9, which is now Wave Farm, he has written about music for The Wire, Signal to Noise, and The New York Post, among others. His writing also appeared in Undercurrents: The Hidden Wiring of Modern Music (2002). Roe has led many “Radio Lab” education lectures and workshops, speaking about how to perform with transmitters
and the history of radio performance and microcasting at venues such as Columbia University, Brown University, Brooklyn College, Flux Factory, The Kitchen, NYU’s ITP Program, Kids Discover Radio in East Harlem, Grassroots Media Conference at the New School, and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Roe’s weekly radio show “Donald Drumpf Theatre” is broadcast by over thirty stations.

All events will be held at 5 pm in Room 208 of the WHC and are free and open to the public.

The lectures are made possible by the generosity of Richard and Barbara Franke, and are intended to present important topics in the Humanities to a wide and general audience.

For more information, please contact the Whitney Humanities Center at 203 432-0670 or email whitneyhumanitiescenter@yale.edu.