



PRESS CONTACT:
Cari Feiler Bender, Relief Communications, LLC
610-416-1216 or cari@reliefcomm.com

NEW FALL FESTIVAL TO HIGHLIGHT RAIL PARK'S PAST, PRESENT, & FUTURE

Friends of the Rail Park, Mural Arts Philadelphia, and American Composers Forum to Collaborate on *Site/Sound: Revealing the Rail Park*

TWEET THIS: Over THREE weeks in October @muralarts @therailpark and @acfphiladelphia join forces to bring you “Site/Sound: Revealing The Rail Park” Festival this fall! Experience curated art through sight and sound, and festivities at the Rail Park and along its future path. Add it to your calendar and stay tuned for more details to come!

PHILADELPHIA – May 15, 2019 – Friends of the Rail Park, Mural Arts Philadelphia, and American Composers Forum, Philadelphia Chapter announce a new collaborative project to take place this fall: *Site/Sound: Revealing the Rail Park*. *Site/Sound: Revealing the Rail Park* will be a unique happening taking place over three weeks in October 2019, weaving together sight and sound along the spine of one of America’s most historic corridors: the tracks, thoroughfares, and tunnels of the terminus of the Reading Railroad. The Rail Park and adjoining neighborhoods will teem with public events and innovative art installations combining sound and visual art, celebrating the past, present, and future of the historic rail corridor.

Through soundscapes, music, and spoken word programs, large-scale projections, new murals, exhibitions, pop-up experiences, films, live performances, special tours, and family programming, *Site/Sound* will activate both the current quarter-mile of elevated green space and invite the public to envision the path of the future park and experience its unusual vantage both above and below the cityscape.



Gene Coleman, Executive Director of ACF Philadelphia, will serve as curator of the three anchor art installations from three teams of noted Philadelphia-based visual and sound artist teams: Carolyn Healy and John JH Phillips; Erik Ruin and

Rosie Langabeer; and Nadia Hironaka, Matthew Suib, and Eugene Lew. The installations will be activated on three Saturdays – October 5, 12, and 19 – at various locations along the future path of the Park with live performances, each site timed sequentially for three performances per night on the Saturday nights (Sunday rain date).

“This is an incredibly exciting initiative that offers our community the opportunity to celebrate the history, experience the present, and imagine the future of this public space,” stated **Kevin Dow, Executive Director, Friends of the Rail Park.** “Neighbors near and far will be able to enjoy what makes the Rail Park so unique to Philadelphia through art, community programming, food, tours, performances, and family-friendly events.”

The celebration of sight and sound will offer the opportunity to move through the vibrant spaces of the city's diverse communities through inspired public art activations and activities, including many developed by neighborhood residents and organizations. *Site/Sound* will attract audiences of all ages and backgrounds from across the city, inviting them to imagine the next phase of this uniquely Philadelphian public park.

Jane Golden, Executive Director of Mural Arts Philadelphia, said, “We are thrilled to be embarking on a public art festival this October in partnership with the Rail Park and the American Composers’ Forum. The work will merge sight and sound and will reference the interesting, complex, and rich history of this part of the city. Artists have an uncanny ability to make us see things we thought we knew, in a new and inspiring light. And the work created this fall will do just that.”

Gene Coleman, Site/Sound Curator said, “It’s a pleasure to be able to present the innovative work of these three outstanding composer/visual artist teams. Each installation creates spaces of environmental, social, and historic meditation, incorporating sound and audio-visual media as new forms of expression in public art and reflecting the history and future of the Rail Park, a new vital cultural asset to the city.”



The seeds for *Site/Sound* were sown in 2015, with an artistic collaboration between Mural Arts and the ACF called [*If You Could Hear These Walls*](#), and in 2016, when the two organizations

presented [Unsung](#), an immersive sound and video experience in architectural remnants of the Reading Railroad at 11th and Carleton Streets. Sound artist and composer [Nadia Botello](#) and video artists [Nadia Hironaka and Matthew Suib](#) created an experience that brought to life the women of the Callowhill neighborhood from its earliest days to our present moment and attracted over 1,000 viewers in a one-night-only performance.

Site/Sound: Revealing the Rail Park is supported by the William Penn Foundation, PNC Arts Alive, and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information, visit muralarts.org/sitesound.

The Site/Sound Projects

[Carolyn Healy & John JH Phillips](#), *title to be determined*, located at 990 Spring Garden Street

Carolyn Healy and John JH Phillips will present a site-specific multimedia installation in the parking lot beneath the Reading Viaduct just east of 990 Spring Garden. This anonymous urban space will be transformed into a vibrant matrix of objects, sound, video, and graphics revolving around the idea of signals, nestled against the tracks leading into the future expanded Rail Park. The artists' ideas originally sprang from curiosity about the impact railroads had on the urban history of the city. As trains became a prevalent feature of the city, the routes of the rail cars became critical, much like the travel of packets of digital information carves pathways in our contemporary culture. The visual and audio components of the installation will probe the history and uses of signals in human interactions. Collaborating with composer and curator Gene Coleman, Healy and Phillips will present three evenings of eclectic audio/visual performances in the installation.

[Nadia Hironaka, Matthew Suib, and Eugene Lew](#), *Moon Viewing Platform*, location to be announced

Moon Viewing Platform is an interdisciplinary public installation that will transform an inhospitable and disused stretch of open-air land into a large-scale performance/gathering space featuring regular acts of caring, a stage, and building-sized nighttime video projections featuring an episodic series of short films. The garden/installation references the *karesansui* (Japanese dry landscape garden), as it becomes a set for a series of short videos and musical performances, inviting audiences to enter another world through the senses and the

imagination and provides the opportunity to engage in intimate commemorative gatherings that celebrate compassion, creativity, and community as essential components of human life.

[Erik Ruin](#) and [Rosie Langabeer](#): *Persistence-of-Vision*, located at various sites beneath the Reading Viaduct (Vine to Fairmount, 11th to 9th Streets)

Persistence-of-Vision will engage audiences in the history of the railroad through a technology contemporaneous to the railroad's construction: the zoopraxiscope. Developed by Eadweard Muybridge in 1879, the zoopraxiscope projects images from rotating glass disks in rapid succession to create the illusion of motion (a phenomenon labeled "the



persistence of vision") and was an important precursor to the movie projector. Several zoopraxiscope stations, each with a unique image and thematically-linked sound, will appear, pop-up style, in various tunnels and underpasses beneath the Viaduct section of the Rail Park. Live events, ranging from musical improvisations to historical re-enactments to dance performances, will explore the capture and redeployment of time.

About the Artists

Carolyn Healy is an installation artist who began her career exhibiting small, abstract assemblages of found objects at the Marian Locks Gallery, Philadelphia, in 1979. Since 1987, she has created numerous large site-specific installation pieces, some for performance events and many in collaboration with sound and video artist John Phillips. These projects have been seen nationally and internationally in museums, university galleries, and theaters, as well as rough industrial and alternative sites. Carolyn has received five Individual Artist Fellowships in Interdisciplinary Art from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a New Forms Regional Grant, and grants from the Leeway Foundation, the Dietrich Foundation, and the Pollock Krasner Foundation.

John JH Phillips is a sound and video artist. His work has included interactive sound installations and audio-visual performances in museums, art galleries, and non-traditional spaces in the United States and abroad. He has collaborated extensively with sculptor Carolyn Healy. His musical compositions have been presented at dance and theater venues, on the nationally syndicated radio program *New American Radio*, and at national and international electronic art festivals such as ISEA and ICMA. His live sound and video performances have been seen in numerous venues in Philadelphia and New York City. John has created several community-based public multimedia art works in Philadelphia. To pursue his video work, he has enjoyed five residencies at the Experimental Television Center and two at Signal Culture, both in Owego, New York. Grants include a fellowship in Sound Art from the National Endowment for the Arts, and five from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

Erik Ruin is a Michigan-raised, Philadelphia-based printmaker, shadow puppeteer and paper-cut artist who has been lauded by the *New York Times* for his “spell-binding cut-paper animations.” His work oscillates between the poles of apocalyptic anxieties and utopian yearnings, with an emphasis on empathy, transcendence, and obsessive detail. He frequently collaborates with musicians, theater performers, other artists, and activist campaigns. He is a founding member of the international Justseeds Artists’ Cooperative, and co-author of the book *Paths Toward Utopia: Graphic Explorations of Everyday Anarchism* (with Cindy Milstein, PM Press, 2012).

Rosie Langabeer is an award-winning composer, improviser, and band leader who specializes in evolutionary arts processes. Deeply inspired by Sun Ra, Harry Partch, and all those who embody an alternative to the oppressive confines of our current social system, Langabeer’s inclination is to challenge preconceived rules about what music can do. She does this by irreverently experimenting with musical idioms, social conventions, and music teaching practices in order to create new music, new methods for participation in music, new contexts for music performance, and ultimately new ideas, new perspectives, and new understandings.

Nadia Hironaka and Matthew Suib are Philadelphia-based artists who have been collaborators since 2008. They are recipients of several honored awards including a 2015 Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, Pew Fellowships in the Arts, and Fellowships from CFEVA and Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. Their work has been widely exhibited both domestically and abroad at venues including Fondazione MAXXI (Rome), New Media Gallery (Vancouver), The Institute of Contemporary Art (Philadelphia), UCLA Hammer Museum, PS1/MoMA, Philadelphia Museum of Art, and Arizona State University Art Museum. They have been artists-in-residence at the Headlands Center for the Arts, the Banff Centre, and the Millay Colony for Arts. Matthew Suib is co-founder of Greenhouse Media and Nadia Hironaka serves as a professor and department chair of Film and Video at the Maryland Institute College of Art. Hironaka and Suib are represented by Locks Gallery. The couple, along with their daughter and one cat, reside in South Philly.

Eugene Lew is primarily engaged in the production, organization, management, transformation, design, performance, (attempted) capture, storage, and playback of sound/music – preferably in collaboration with others, in real life. The fleeting moment, aggregate independent decision-making, and stochastic phenomena are especially fascinating and vital to his practice and general existence. He seeks experiences that cannot be captured (or sought) but might be witnessed/overheard if one just so happens to be in the right place at the right time to step into the constant cycle of remembering/forgetting/reconstructing. He has resided and worked in Philadelphia for over 20 years, and is committed to the city, and the communities of which he is fortunate to be a member.

About the Curator

Gene Coleman is a composer, musician and director. A 2014 Guggenheim Fellow and the winner of the 2013 Berlin Prize for Music, he has created over 70 works for various instrumentation and media. Coleman makes innovative use of sound, image, space, and time to create work that expands our understanding of the world. Since 2001, his work has focused on the global transformation of culture and music’s relationship with science, architecture, and new media. Coleman has been the composer-in-residence at numerous sites including the American Academy in Berlin and has been a guest artist and lecturer at many universities, including Hong Kong University and the University of Pennsylvania. In 2016, Coleman

launched the Algo.Institute, a research and creation network of composers, scientists, technologists, and artists from various disciplines. He is the artistic director of Soundfield, a producing organization, and director of "Ensemble Noamnesia," a new music group. In 2016, he was named Director of the American Composers Forum, Philadelphia Chapter.

About the Partners

Friends of the Rail Park (FRP) is a 501(c)3 organization that drives the vision behind the transformation of historic rail lines that traverse Philadelphia into a continuous three-mile linear park and recreation path that connects and enlivens the social, historical and environmental fabric of Philadelphia's communities. FRP's mission is to be the City's partner to create, activate, and enhance the quality of the Rail Park in order to engage diverse residents, bridge communities, and promote inclusivity among Philadelphians and visitors. Visit www.therailpark.org.

The American Composers Forum, Philadelphia Chapter facilitates an ecosystem of creativity through music. Our goal is to make composers, and the music they create, a vibrant and integral part of human culture. Programs reflect the diversity of our world, and we partner with a variety of ensembles and organizations to create opportunities for new work to flourish. Visit acfphiladelphia.org.

Mural Arts Philadelphia is the nation's largest public art program, dedicated to the belief that art ignites change. For over 30 years, Mural Arts has united artists and communities through a collaborative and equitable process, creating nearly 4,000 artworks that have transformed public spaces and individual lives. Mural Arts aims to empower people, stimulate dialogue, and build bridges to understanding with projects that attract artists from Philadelphia and around the world, and programs that focus on youth education, restorative justice, mental health and wellness, and public art and its preservation. Popular mural tours offer a firsthand glimpse into the inspiring stories behind Mural Arts' iconic and unparalleled collection, which has earned Philadelphia worldwide recognition as the "City of Murals." For more information, call 215-685-0750 or visit muralarts.org. Follow us on social media: @muralarts on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/muralarts) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/muralarts), [MuralArtsPhiladelphia](https://www.facebook.com/MuralArtsPhiladelphia) on Facebook, and [phillymuralarts](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCphillymuralarts) on YouTube.

###

photos of the Rail Park Viaduct courtesy of Friends of the Rail Park

EDITOR'S NOTE: high-resolution images are available in the Mural Arts Philadelphia press room at <http://bit.ly/MuralArtsPressKit>.