



Tellervo Kalleinen and Oliver Kochta-Kalleinen: The St. Louis Complaint Choir

April 7-17, and June 16, 2011

The Complaint Choir is an independently producible project initiated by the Finnish artists **Tellervo Kalleinen** and **Oliver Kochta-Kalleinen**. Inspired by a phenomenon in Finland called “Valituskuoro”—literally “complaints choir”—the artists created the first choir in 2005 at an artists’ residency in Birmingham, England, and have since given the project over to be executed worldwide in cities such as St. Petersburg, Russia, Chicago, and Florence, among others. The Complaint Choir is formed by the collection of complaints from people around a given city, which is then translated into a musical score by a local composer and performed by a choir comprised of residents of the host city. The project is intended to suggest a sense of communal endeavor through the cathartic process of airing of negative thoughts and feelings about the city one lives in, while engaging a comic tension between the “serious” expressive form of choral music and the often frivolous nature of the complaints. It also underscores the renewed dedication to performance-based work in contemporary art, while joining such works as Marina Abramovic’s (Yugoslavian, b. 1946) *Count on Us (Chorus)* and Artur Zmijewski’s (Polish, b. 1966) *Singing Lesson 2* (both 2003) in radically reconsidering the impact and effect of multiple human voices singing in unison.

From April 7-17, The Front Room at CAM and The Saint Louis Complaint Choir welcomes visitors to submit their complaints. One can also email complaints to stlcomplaintchoir@gmail.com (Subject Line “Complaints”). If you wish to participate as a singer, please enter “Singer” in the subject line with your inquiry and contact information. Singing skills are not required.

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The Saint Louis Complaint Choir will then perform live on June 16, 2011 at CAM, conducted by Merry Keller. The performance is free and open to the public.

Tellervo Kalleinen born in 1975 and **Oliver Kochta-Kalleinen** born in 1971 both live and work in Helsinki. Their work has been featured in exhibitions at the Mori Art Museum, Tokyo; Artspace, Sydney; and KIASMA, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki.

image: Helsinki Complaint Choir. Photo courtesy of Heidi Piironen.

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