

Eric Ellingsen Tool Shed



Eric Ellingsen: Tool Shed, installation view, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, May 17–August 18, 2019.

Tool Shed aligns with the investigative nature of Eric Ellingsen’s art and landscape architecture, involving process-oriented work, alternative ways of learning, and the use of public space for action-based research. An acoustically designed tool shed, installed in CAM’s courtyard, serves as a kiosk to experience soundscapes of the surrounding neighborhoods. The content will evolve over the course of the summer, providing multiple sonic portraits of the Museum’s community.

This project takes to heart an idea from author and urbanist Jane Jacobs: if we need eyes on the streets then we need ears on the streets, too. In June and July, Ellingsen guides “walkshops” along Washington Boulevard to encourage new perceptions of the community through active listening and dialogue.

The public is invited to take part in the walkshops, which will include volunteers from the nearby Samaritan United Methodist Church and Third Baptist Church, as well as musicians, poets, field scientists, and landscape architects. Walkshop participants gather field recordings, which are then collected, archived, mixed, and translated into sound environments. These aural portraits can be



Audio Tour

Visit camstl.org/audio on a mobile device to hear directly from the artist.

experienced in a colorful tool shed set in the museum's courtyard. Painted in gradations from pink to red, the structure contrasts with its gray surroundings and its tones subtly shift with changes in natural light and sky.

Ellingsen seeks to engage communities in the design and determination of their own spaces, stories, and lives. In *Tool Shed*, the acts of investigating local sites and accumulating sonic data are tools to encourage the individual and collective imaginations of the participants. The field recordings offer expanded views of our existing communities—helping to alter public perceptions and re-address the past, the present, and possible futures.

Eric Ellingsen (b. 1972, Lexington, Kentucky; lives and works in St. Louis) is an assistant professor in the Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts at Washington University in St. Louis. From 2009 to 2014, Ellingsen co-directed and taught at the Institute for Spatial Experiments, a five-year education project started by artist Olafur Eliasson and affiliated with the Berlin University of the Arts. Ellingsen works and exhibits internationally, including at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris, Hamburger Bahnhof in Berlin, and the Sullivan Galleries in Chicago, and has been involved in a long-term collaboration with a group of Ethiopian poets, musicians, and artists. He received an ARTECITYA artist residency (Thessaloniki, Greece) in 2016, a Library of Water residency in Iceland in 2014, and two Graham Foundation grants to individuals, in 2012 and 2014. He has served as the assistant director of the Master of Landscape Architecture program and visiting assistant professor at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. Recent and forthcoming publications include *Twisted* (Broken Dimanche Press, 2019), *GAM. 13: Spatial Expeditions* (Graz Architecture Press, 2016), and *Some Pigeons Are More Equal than Others* (Lars Muller Publishers, 2015).

Eric Ellingsen: Tool Shed is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Wassan Al-Khudhairi, Chief Curator; Alex Elmestad, Director of Learning and Engagement; and Misa Jeffereis, Assistant Curator.

The project is generously supported by The Divided City, an urban humanities initiative funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, a joint project of the Center for the Humanities and the Sam Fox School, College of Architecture and Urban Design at Washington University in St. Louis. Special thanks to project partners John Baugh, Neo Muyanga, and Casey O'Callaghan, and to KDHX.



Related Programs

Walkshops with Eric Ellingsen

Friday, June 7, 6:30–8:00 pm

Saturday, July 13, 10:00 am–noon

Saturday, July 20, 11:00 am–12:30 pm



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