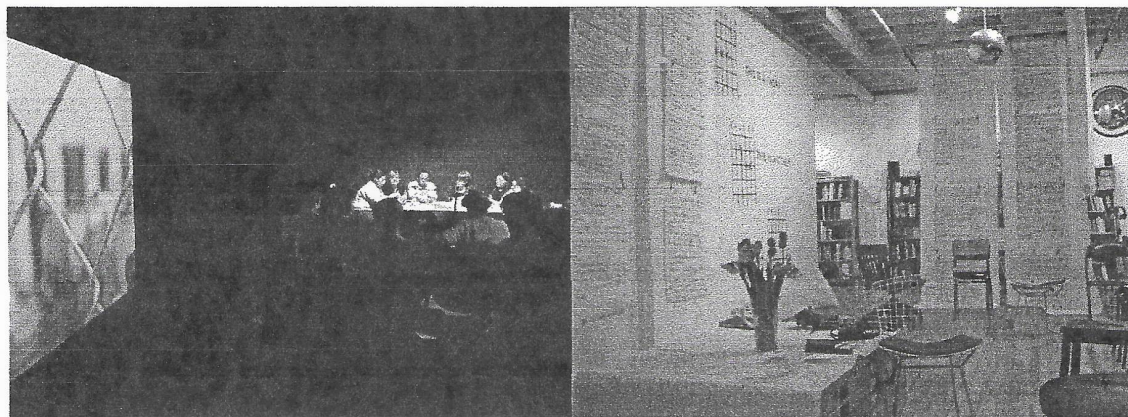


# LOS ANGELES CONTEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS



## Ultra-red | Encuentro

Day of Dialogue for Militant Sound Investigations

As part of the PUBLIC INTEREST series at LACE

Saturday, 1 April 2006

9:30 AM to 6:00 PM, Lunch Provided

For the first time in Los Angeles, the audio-activist organization Ultra-red will host a day-long conference presenting the various activities of its members and working groups. Interrogating a multiple of political and geographic territories, presentations from Ultra-red members will investigate the autonomy of migration in Europe, participatory community-development in East Los Angeles, inquiry-based education strategies in Los Angeles county, organizing the silence around HIV/AIDS in North America, and the dialogue between militant sound investigations, popular education and autonomy politics.

Presentations from members of Ultra-red will make manifest the various analyses around political subjectivity, the role of education in political organizing and the problematics of art in the context of organizing. Allies of Ultra-red will then be asked to respond to ideas raised in the initial round of presentations - challenging the perspectives of Ultra-red members. The day-long event will conclude with breakout discussions with audience members to further consider ideas and issues raised in the presentations. Confirmed respondents include, *Susanne Lang* (kein.org); *Jackie Leavitt* (UCLA, School of Public Policy); *Emily Roysdon* (LTTR); *Walt Senterfit* (Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project); and *Simmi Ghandi* (Garment Workers Center).

The workshop is open to the public for artists, community organizers, and anyone interested in strategizing around the intersection between critical art practice and political intervention.

## Ultra-red | Encuentra Presenters

---

**Elizabeth Blaney and Leonardo Vilchis**

Structural Adjustments: <http://www.ultrared.org/ps03.html>

Organizers with the grass-roots community development movement Union de Vecinos, Elizabeth Blaney and

Leonardo Vilchis have collaborated within Ultra-red since 1998. Founded by a group of residents fighting against the demolition of public housing in East Los Angeles, the Union de Vecinos has expanded throughout the city organizing neighbors for participatory community development. Blaney and Vilchis have brought their rich experiences as organizers to such Ultra-red projects as international performances of "Trabajo y Días," THE DEBT in Dublin Ireland, and Ultra-red projects in Canada, Germany, Mexico and the UK.

### **Manuela Bojadzijeve**

Surveying the Future: <http://www.ultrared.org/pso7.html>

Based in Frankfurt am Main, Manuela Bojadzijeve is an activist with Kanak Attak. Founded in 1997, Kanak Attak is an antiracist group with chapters throughout Germany including Frankfurt, Berlin, Cologne and Hamburg. From 1995 to 1997 Bojadzijeve was part of the editorial collective of the quarterly magazine "Die Beute". Recently, she completed her Ph. D. titled, "Struggles of Migration." Her research encompasses and combines racism theory and migration history. Bojadzijeve is a Research Fellow at the University of Frankfurt in the Department of Cultural Anthropology and European Ethnography. Bojadzijeve has collaborated within Ultra-red on a number of projects including BLOK70 which investigated changes in migrant politics in Serbia.

### **Pablo Garcia**

School of Echoes: <http://www.ultrared.org/pso6.html>

Pablo Garcia has been a member of Ultra-red since 1999. In addition to his sound and music work, Garcia is also an organizer of community-based education initiatives. Garcia has been involved in a number of grass-roots education initiatives in Los Angeles. He currently serves as Southern California Field Director for the Woodcraft Rangers developing curriculum that synthesizes inquiry-based learning and popular education. Besides working on a variety of Ultra-red audio projects, Garcia's organizing work has contributed to the School of Echoes project that features experimental audio art and popular education.

### **Dont Rhine**

Public Record: <http://www.publicrec.org>

Dont Rhine co-founded Ultra-red in 1994. As an activist, Rhine has worked with a variety of social movements including ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power), Clean Needles Now (needle exchange), and Pride at Work / AFL-CIO (queer labor). Rhine's work as a artist and teacher seeks to develop a sound-art theory and practice informed by experiences as a political organizer and conceptual art. As Information Secretary for the Ultra-red organization, Rhine has participated in most of the organization's projects including the HIV/AIDS performances SILENT|LISTEN and the migrant investigation project BLOK70.

### **Robert Sember**

SILENT|LISTEN: <http://www.ultrared.org/pso8.html>

Robert Sember joined Ultra-red in 2005 for the organization's HIV / AIDS performance project, SILENT|LISTEN. A Professor of Public Health at Columbia University, New York, Sember brings his background in performance studies to numerous AIDS / HIV community initiatives in New York, Brazil and South Africa. His international perspective on the pandemic informs his work in public policy as well as collaborations with artists and curators around the world. Presently Sember is a visiting lecturer in the Department of World Arts and Cultures at UCLA.

### **Audio interventions**

---

**Eddie Peel** will perform audio interventions throughout this event. Transplanted to LA from Florida's electronic music scene, Peel joined Ultra-red in 2005 for the performance project, SILENT|LISTEN. As half of the duos Sony Mao and Needle, Peel has released projects on Beta Bodega (Miami), Ritornell (Frankfurt) and Public Record (LA). In 2004, Peel joined other Los Angeles AIDS activists to initiate a new chapter of ACT UP helping to coordinate organizing workshops with AIDS service organizations.



## Project Background

---

In 1994, two AIDS activists working with the Hollywood-based needle exchange, Clean Needles Now, launched the sound-art collaboration Ultra-red. Half-jokingly taking their name from an auto-body shop in Silverlake, Ultra-red assumed as its starting place the specific possibilities for art and activism within the sound recording of social spaces. If, as Henri Lefebvre argued, space is the product of specific social practices, then how does sound contribute to the production of space both in its signification and political struggles? Do audio recordings of a social space yield more than simply documents of a time and place but actually a technology of spatial meaning? These questions would eventually assume the urgency of community development and organizing as the dual identities of Ultra-red's founders -- that of artists and organizers -- became the fundamental basis of the group's methodology and membership.

Over the span of its first ten years of collaborations, Ultra-red shifted membership and traversed a variety of urban sound spaces as they formed new alliances. Ultra-red occupied such communities in struggle as public housing in East Los Angeles, resistance to the policing of gay male sexual spaces, migrant labor organizing, transgender activism, community development, global justice mobilizations and HIV/AIDS organizing. The increasing diversity of interventions and sound investigations, in terms of specific political and geographical sites, compelled Ultra-red to change its structural model in 2004. As outlined in its "Articles of Incorporation", Ultra-red remade itself as an aesthetic-political organization able to accommodate a variety of autonomous projects involving different teams each identified as Ultra-red.

Within its first year operating as an organization, Ultra-red launched three team-based projects. These include the US-based AIDS organizing project SILENT|LISTEN (Pablo Garcia, Eddie Peel, Dont Rhine and Robert Sember), the European migrant investigation BLOK70 (Rutvica Andrijasevic, Manuela Bojadzjev, Elliot Perkins and Dont Rhine) and the workshop-based collaboration with artists and community activists named ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION (Janna Graham, Dont Rhine and Leonardo Vilchis). Up until now, the particular analyses and methodologies to arise from these three projects have had little chance to enter into dialogue with each other as the only Ultra-red member to participate in all three is the organization's Information Secretary, Dont Rhine.

Information secretary: [info@ultrared.org](mailto:info@ultrared.org)  
[www.ultrared.org](http://www.ultrared.org)  
[www.publicrec.org](http://www.publicrec.org)

## PUBLIC INTEREST SALON SERIES at LACE

---

The *Public Interest Salon Series* explores the evolving nature of the public realm by focusing on contemporary architecture, design and visual art projects that challenge standard notions of public space to manifest social as well as physical impact within an urban context. The series launched on 11 January 2006 with a conversation between Vito Acconci/Acconci Studio and Thom Mayne/Morphosis, moderated by Linda Taalman/Taalman Koch Architecture. Ultra-red | Encuentra, hosted by the audio-activist organization, Ultra-Red, is the second event in this quarterly series.