



Aio Frei works at the intersection of sound art, performance, curation, composition and graphic design. They organize and develop experimental audio formats, collective listening settings, listening performances and listening workshops in both self-organized contexts and institutions in and outside Switzerland.

Aio Frei is co-founder and co-operator of the collectively run record- and art bookstore OOR Records (2014-2022) and curated the events of the queer-feminist event context OOR Saloon (2014-2022) and conceived and designed the overall appearance and printed materials for it.

Aio has been part of various art collectives, including Les Complices*, edition fink – Verlag für zeitgenössische Kunst, Radio Arthur, a.o. and has always organized events in various collaborative constellations and contexts.

Aio's transdisciplinary, mostly collaborative practice combines listening workshops, listening performances, relational composition, and diverse forms of publication. These are usually preceded research processes, which are often reflected in the works in text form and spoken language. Aio does graphic design for art books and sound projects, edits editions, is an experimental DJ, collects mushrooms and gives risography workshops at the Kulturbüro Zürich.

For many years, Aio has been interested in questions around «ethics of listening» – socio-political, ecological, embodied and queer practices of listening in their respective contexts.

Aio is interested in emancipatory possibilities in sonic realms, socio-political forms of composition, non-verbal communication and inclusive approaches to improvisation.

Aio increasingly delves into workshop formats that test methodologies of relationality and difference through artistic scores, modes of collaborative improvisation, and inclusive forms of composition.

Aio composes with semi-modular synthesis, various forms of microphony, «attentive recordings», record players, spoken language, and wide electroacoustic improvisation. They think of their own practice as and with queer-feminist, non-essentialist, decolonial knowledge and theory production and holds a critical ear on questions around representation within neo-liberal systems of value enhancement.

Aio's performances, compositions and collaborations have been heard and seen at Extra City Kunsthal Antwerp, Kaai Studios Brussels, District Berlin, Instituto Svizzero Rome, Walcheturm Zurich, Crisap London, Café Oto London, Shedhalle Zürich, Standards Milano, Venice Biennale, CCA Glasgow, Transmission Glasgow, HKW Berlin, among others.

EDUCATION/WORK (SELECTION)

- 2014–2022** OOR Records/OOR Saloon – record & artbook store, sound/art space, production context for sound/art & performance events (sonic curation, graphic design and founding member)
- 2011–2023** Kulturbüro Zürich (cultural facilitator)
- 2010–2014** edition fink – Verlag für zeitgenössische Kunst (conception/graphic design of art publications)
- 2011–2012** Art- and Media-Theory, Zurich School of the Arts (ZHdK)
- 2009–2012** Les Complices*, Art Space (graphic design, facilitator, co-curation)
- 2009–2010** Radio Arthur, Audio-Kunst-Radio (Redaktion)
- 2006–2009** Palace St. Gallen (design, co-curation, founding member)
- 2002–2003** Kunstakademie Warschau, Polen
- 1999–2003** Visual Communication/Graphic Design (Diploma) School for Design, St. Gallen.

PERFORMANCES & SOUND WORKS (SELECTION) 2022

- Research-based Listening Performance/Live Performance, «Stone witnessing – Resonances in the swirls» – Extra City Kunsthal, Antwerpen.
- Composition/Live Performance, «Back to earth», (with Franziska Koch) – Motel Campo, Genève.
- Composition/Sound installation for exhibition, «The vibration of things», by Alice Cantaluppi – Fellbach Triennale, (Curated by Elke auf der Moore) 2022.
- Composition/Listening Session/Poster Design/Riso Print, «Space & Attention», 20 years Les Complices* – Les Complices*, Zürich.
- Research-based site specific multichannel soundperformance, «Listening with – A sequence of attunement exercises», (with Franziska Koch in collab with Nelson Irsapoullé, Tracy September & Vivian Wang) – Old botanical garden Zürich, Sonic Topologies Festival, ETH Zürich.
- Listening Workshop/Sonic Poem, «You listening with is a river», (with Cannach MacBride), «Wild Energies – Live Materials», on the work of composer Annea Lockwood – CRISAP (Creative Research into sound arts practice), London.

2021

- Listening Performance/Sonic Poem, «Allowing passage through (TRANSITVS)» with Izidora I LETHE – mothers & daughters, Kaai Studios, Brussels.
- Site specific multi-channel sound installation & listening-exercises, «Non-/linear Attunements – Relational Exercises for Listening Otherwise», (with Franziska Koch) – Klang Moor Schopfe Festival, Gais.
- 4-day workshop & radio composition, «Relational

Listening Composing Workshop», in context of «kal – a language where yesterday and tomorrow are the same word» – House of kal (Karachi, Pakistan; Colombo, Sri Lanka; District, Berlin).

- 4-day listening workshop & composition, conception/design of publication & publication release, «Listening to Listening – A Score for Collective Quantum Listening Composing» with KIT «detalk series» and self-organized event and Sonic Matter Festival, Zürich.
- Composition and poster design, «Red Patience (Distance)», for the exhibition «Red Patience» by Izidora I LETHE and Ohan Breiding – Bass and Reiner Gallery, San Francisco.

2020

- Multi-part edition: two compositions on 7inch vinyl, book and poster, «Consent not to be a single being – a set for peri-acoustic attunement» – Arvore Foundation, Basel.
- 2019**
- Performance/Filmsound in and for «Undead Voices», film by Maria Iorio and Raphaël Cuomo – screened at Casa Blu Olivretti, Ivrea (Italy) and Shanghai Centre for Experimental Film, Shanghai.
- Listening Performance & Sound-Design, «Tongue breaks inhaling», in context of «Having been breathed out/patriarchy over and out» by Cannach MacBride – CCA (Centre for Contemporary Art), Glasgow.

2018

- Listening Performance, «Becoming Stone», in context of «Becoming Stone Ball» – OOR Saloon, Zürich.
- Essayistic mix in the context of «Unequal Club» curated by Amal Alhaag – De School, Amsterdam.

2017

- Listening Performance & publication, «Her* Unspoken Languages – Silence as State Violence and Whistles of Resistance», with Franziska Koch & Chantal Küng in context of «Repression & Sound» – OOR Saloon, Walcheturm Zürich and Luff Festival Lausanne.
- Sounddesign (with Nicolas Buzzi) for multimedia performance «Genesis Machines – La Pompa Agricola Transsubstantia», by knowbotiq in context of «1948: Technosphere Unbound» – Haus der Kulturen der Welt (HKW), Berlin.
- Listening Performance, «Delayed Entanglements», in context of «undoing listening» (curated by Cannach MacBride) – Transmission Gallery, Glasgow.
- Listening Performance, «J'ai everyday ma substance», (with Romy Rüeegger) – Künstlerhaus Büchsenhausen, Innsbruck, Germany.
- Research-based Listening Performance «The Swiss Psychotropic Gold Refining – A Molecular Listening Session», (with Nina Bandi) in «The Swiss Psychotropic Gold Refining» by knowbotiq – Corner College, Zürich.

- Listening Performance, «*Those who refuse to represent*», with Sinethemba Twalo (ZAF), in context of «*Afrodrexciya*» – **Salon Bastarde, Zürich.**

- Listening Performance, «*Listening otherwise*» – **Standards Soundart Space, Milano.**

2016

- Listening Performance, «*Coupé Recalé or how I record you pressing the pause button*», (with Romy Rüegger) – **Sideroom, Amsterdam.**
- Listening Performance, «*b(l)ack dada: drone non-performance*», with knowbotiq – **Landesmuseum Zürich.**
- Listening Performance, «*Walking so silently, so your feet become ears*», within context of «*SCH*» (curated by Kadiatou Diallo) – **Kunstraum Klingenthal, Basel.**
- Listening-Set, «*DeNeutralize*», publication-release of «*The Air will not deny you*» – **Joahn Jacobs Museum, Zürich.**
- Listening Performance, «*Touching Tones with Tender Buttons*», (with Romy Rüegger) in context of «*FRENCH KISSES: On Tips of Tongues, and Feeling as Taste*» (curated by Maria Guggenbichler & Amal Alhaag) – **San Serriffe Amsterdam, District Berlin and PrintRoom Rotterdam.**
- Listening Performance «*The Who of Things – An evening of Techno-shamanism*» – **Upstate Art Space, Zürich.**
- Research-based Listening Performance «*The You, You as Me, Me, Now, Now – The Sound as the Trace of her Voice*», in context of «*The Ketty La Rocca Research Centre*» by Sally Schonfeldt – **Istituto Svizzero, Rome.**

2014–2015

- Research-based sound-mixes, «*Kotomisi Uniform*», by knowbotiq, Salon Suisse – **Venice Biennale 2015, Italy.**

AWARDS/RESIDENCIES

- 2021** Chinijo Archipelago (self-directed residency with Izidora I LETHE) (5 weeks)
- 2020** Curation Award, Internationale Bodenseeekonferenz
- 2020** Living Expense Grant – Arvore Foundation, Basel
- 2015–2022** Artspace fundings – City of Zürich and Canton of Zürich (for OOR Saloon)
- 2016** Residency – Sideroom, Amsterdam (2 Weeks)
- 2015** Research-Residency – Istituto Svizzera, Rome, Italy.
- 2014** Work Grant Visual Arts – Kanton St. Gallen
- 2011** Pro Helvetia Residency (with Andrea Thal/Les Complices*) – Cairo, Egypt (4 months)
- 2006** Work Grant Visual Arts – City of St. Gallen
Work Grant Visual Arts – Canton of St. Gallen

SONIC CURATION/ORGANIZING (SELECTION)

2014–2022

OOOR Saloon: Sonic Curation, Organisation & Graphic Design: [Check Archive](#)

2022

- «*OOOR Revoir – OOR Saloon says bye to OOR Records*», two weekends with performances, sound installations, listenings – **OOOR Records, Zürich.**

2021

- Curation of performative programme (with Franziska Koch) for «*Aargauer Artprice 2021 (to Sabian Baumann)*» – **Kunsthhaus Aarau, Aarau.**

2019 Selected OOR Saloon Events (Curation, Design):

- «*Une soirée psycho-acoustique dedicated to Maryanne Amacher*», with Thomas Ankersmit (NDL), Jessica Ekomane (FR/DE) – **Kunstraum Walcheturm, Zürich.**
- Matana Roberts (US), Robert Aiki Aubrey Lowe (US), Sofia Jernberg (SWE/ETH) – **Walcheturm, Zürich.**
- «*Une soirée de voix non-linéaires*», with Elaine Mitchener (UK/JAM), Audrey Chen (US/CHN/TWN), Ka Baird (US) – **Kunstraum Walcheturm, Zürich.**
- «*The political possibility of sound – Fragments of Listening*», Salomé Voegelín, Sonic Lecture & Book Presentation – **OOOR Saloon, Zürich.**
- «*It's about time – A polyphonic Soundwagon against normative time regimes*» – a day of soundperformances, speeches and DJ-sets on a moving truck through the City of Zürich, OOR Saloon in collaboration with raum*station – **Feminist Strike, Zürich.**
- «*Feminist Listening Study Group*», eventseries/reading group – **OOOR Saloon, Zürich.**
- «*OOOR Saloon & Hallow Ground present: Kali Malone (US/SWE), Siavash Amini (IRN), Nicolas Buzzi (ZH) – Offene Kirche St. Jakob, Zürich.*

Other curated OOR Events: Marja Ahti (FIN); João Renato Orecchia Zúñiga (ZAF/PER); Felicia Atkinson (FR); Cheryl Ong (SGP) – **OOOR Records, Zurich**

2018 Selected OOR Saloon Events (Curation, Design):

- «*Becoming Stone Ball – Ein queerer* Archipel für die kollektive Reflexion der Menschenrechte, gegen die Antimenschenrechtsinitiative*», FAKA (ZAF), Bonaventure (PRT/CH), Deena Abdelwahed (TUN) a.o. – **FLINTA* Squat, Zürich.**

- «*Une seismophonische soirée*» with Tomoko Sauvage (JP), Lucy Railton (UK), Ji Youn Kang (SKR) – **Kunstraum Walcheturm, Zürich.**

- «*An evening about Repression and Sound*», «*Sound as a weapon*» sonic lecture by Juliette Volcler (FR); «*Her* unspoken languages*», Performance by Franziska Koch, Chantal Küng & Aio Frei – **Kunstraum Walcheturm Zürich and Luff Festival Lausanne.**

Other curated Events: María Chavez (PER/US); Hans Christian Dany (DE); Tomaga (UK); Matana Roberts (US)

2017 Selected OOR Saloon Events (Curation, Design):

- «*Remember She* Loves*», Sassy Black (US), TRA (ZAF), Amina Abdulkadir (CH) a.o., in collab with Bla*Sh – **OOOR Saloon, Zürich.**
- «*Une soirée métaphysique*» with Sarah Davachi (CND), Caterina Barbieri (IT), Gea Brown (IT) – **Kunstraum Walcheturm, Zürich.**
- «*Afrodrexciya*», with DJ Lag (ZAF), Bla*sh (CH), Yvonne Willhelm (knowbotiq), Tim Zulauf (DE), Sinethemba Twalo (ZAF) in collab with **Salon Bastarde, Longstreet Zürich.**
- Moor Mother (US), Nidia Minaj (PRT), DJ Stix (ZAF) – **Koch Areal, Zürich.**
- Egyptian Female Experimental Session (EGY) – **Umbo.**
- «*Language is Skin – Scripts for Performances*» by Romy Rüegger, Booklaunch/Performance Night – **OOOR Saloon, Zürich.**
- OOR Saloon presents Valentina Magaletti (UK), Gilles

Aubry (CH), Don't DJ (DE) Aio Frei (CH) a.o., «*Oto Nove Swiss*» – **Café Oto, London.**

- «*RFG – A New Work for Cello and Computer*», Peter Zinovieff & Lucy Railton (UK) – **Walcheturm, Zürich.**

- «*A Polyrhythmic Soirée*» with Mohammad Reza Mortazavi (IRN), Beatrice Dillon (UK), Don't DJ (DE), OOR Edition 03 Tape Release – **Palace St. Gallen.**

2016 Selected OOR Saloon Events (Curation, Design):

- «*Speaks with Silence*», three day event, in collab with sideroom Amsterdam, with Barby Asante (UK), Amal Alhaag (NDL/SOM), Aio Frei (CH), DJ Haram (US), Samia Henni (DZA/CH), Cannach MacBride (UK), Romy Rüegger (CH), Felicia von Zweigbergk (NDL) a.o. – **OOOR Saloon, Zürich.**

- «*An Unhappy Evening*», Publication release of «*Sabian Baumann/Karin Michalski – An Unhappy Archive*», Performances by Evan Ifekoya (UK), Maja Dunietz (ISR), Li Tavor (CH) a.o., OOR Saloon & edition fink – **Gallery Mark Müller, Zürich.**

- «*Who takes the Rap – Ein performativer Abend zur Schweizer Asylgesetzgebung seit den 70ern*» Filmscreening, Lectures, Performances, in collab with Cinenova – Feminist Film Archive London – **Uto Kino, Zürich.**
- The Space Lady (US), Nikolaïenko (UA), Papiro (CH/IT) a.o. – **Koch Areal Zürich.**

- «*Echo La Rocca – The sound as the trace of her voice*», Curation of a daylong event programme at «*The Ketty La Rocca Research Centre*» by Sally Schonfeldt (AUS), with Performances by Caterina Barbieri (IT), Romy Rüegger (CH), Aio Frei & Franziska Koch (CH), Johann Merrich (IT), Die Schachtel (IT) – **Istituto Svizzero, Rome.**

2011–2015

- «*Her* silences – On sharing with care, the secrecy of space and acts of silence as socio-cultural strategies*», Performances & Lectures by Terre Thaemlitz (JP/US), Lina Džuverovic (CRO/UK), Fender Schrade (DE), Kerstin Schroedinger (DE) – **OOOR Saloon @ HEK – Haus der elektronischen Künste, Basel.**

- «*Franziska Koch – 3 Renotations of 1 Act of Cleaning a Piano*», Publication Release & Listening-Performances by Tamriko Kordzaia, Marc Matter a.o. – **Helmhaus, Zürich.**

- «*Close Hearings*» (Sonic curation of event series) – **Les Complices*, Zürich.**

Other curated events: Ain Bailey (UK); Beatrice Dillon (UK); Apparent Extent (DE); Invernemuto (IT), Fucking Good Art (NDL); Diatribes (CH); Gilles Aubry (CH); Felicia Atkinson (FR), Michaela Melian (DE)

WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS/TEACHING

- Listening-Performance/Seminar, «*Sich verlandschaften – Auf der Suche nach einer relationalen Praxis*», Frühjahrsakademie, Ästhetische Kulturen, **ZHdK, 2023.**
- Risography Workshops, **Kulturbüro Zürich, 2011–2023.**
- Gastkritik, Seminar «*Scores in der Kunst*» von Izidora I Lethe & Thea Reifler, Architektur und Kunst I + II, **ETH Zürich, 2023.**
- Listening Workshop, «*You listening with is a river*», (with Cannach MacBride), «*Wild Energies – Live*

Materials», on the work of composer Anne Lockwood – **CRISAP, London, 2022.**

- 4-day workshop & radio composition, «*Relational Listening Composing Workshop*», in context of «*kal – a language where yesterday and tomorrow are the same word*» – **House of kal (Karachi, Pakistan; Colombo, Sri Lanka; District Berlin), 2021.**

- «*OK, they're looking at me. But I'm looking at them*», Seminar, 1-Day Input/Listening-session, MA Fine Arts – **Zurich school of the arts (ZHdK), 2019.**

- «*The refusal of reflecting the same elsewhere – Situated and embodied practices of listening*», Seminar (with Franziska Koch), MA Transdisziplinarität – **Zurich school of the arts (ZHdK), 2019.**

- «*Critical fabulation*», Seminar (with Yvonne Willhelm) – **Zurich school of the arts (ZHdK), 2016.**

PUBLICATIONS (DESIGN AND ARTISTIC CONTRIBUTIONS, SELECTION)

- Conception & graphic design: *Oliver Hussain & Kerstin Schroedinger – DNCB: A History of Irritation*, Artists Publication, Archive Books, 2023.
- Composition: *Peri-acoustic Feedbacks on Epiphanies*, Compliation, 2LP, Hallow Ground, 2022.
- Compositions on SD-Card: *knowbotiq – Swiss Psychotropic Gold*, Christoph Merian Verlag, 2020.
- Discursive-audio-mixes: *knowbotiq – Angisa Formless – Vom Ornament-Werden oder das Flimmern als Agency in: «Visualität und Abstraktion. Figur Grund-Verhältnisse»* Hrsg. Hanne Loreck, Materialverlag HFBK Hamburg, 2018.
- «*Those who hear, can hear what i'm trying to say – OOR Saloon/OOR Records*», in «*Multiple: Numéro Un – Thinking sound and listening in the present time*», Hrsg. Antoine Chessex, 2018.
- Conception & graphic design: *Sabian Baumann/Karin Michalski – An Unhappy Archive*, (publication/10“vinyl/ download) with contributions by Sara Ahmed, Anne Cvetkovitch et al., edition fink, Zürich, 2016.
- Artist contribution/performance Script: *Touching Tones with Tender Buttons*, (with Romy Rüegger), in *French Kisses – On Tips of Tongues, and Feeling as Taste*, Hrsg. Sideroom Amsterdam, 2016.
- Editor/conception/design: *Franziska Koch – 3 Renotations of 1 Act of Cleaning a Piano*, artist publication/7inch vinyl, edition fink, 2013.
- Conception/design: *Uriel Orlow – Time is a place*, artists publication, verlag für moderne kunst nürnberg, 2012.
- Conception/design: *Chewing the Scenery*, process-based publication series, (with Georg Rutishauser/edition fink), with contributions by Pauline Boudry/Renate Lorenz, Tim Zulauf/KMUProduktionen, Maria Iorio/Raphaël Cuomo, Uriel Orlow, Eran Schaefer, Anne Cvetkovitch, Mathias Danbolt, Antke Engel, Patricia Putschert, Rubia Salgado, Sara Ahmed, Elizabeth Freeman, Kerstin Schroedinger/Mareike Bernien, Emma Wolukau-Wanambwa, Karin Michalski, Elahe Haschemi Yekani a.o. – Swiss Pavillon, Teatro Fondamenta Nuove, **54. Biennale di Venezia, 2010/2011.**