

Thesis SPEECH

35-40min

20min questions 10 more min questions

### **concept - paper ideas - what is the transgender noise aesthetic**

Read intro

“Transness is intrinsically linked to noise. The act of transitioning between genders is something that is inherently messy, complex, and taboo; as is noise. Noise is a force beyond human comprehension, thus it is often defined by what it is not. Noise is not a pattern, it’s not pleasant, it’s not music, and it certainly doesn’t make a lot of sense. Noise is most often used to define an unwanted sound, something deemed as unpleasant by an outside actor. This is often how transness is represented in the media, shown through the lens of someone who is separate from a trans identity, this leads to the defining of transness to be thrust upon trans people based on stereotypes and preconceptions. This kind of representation often turns into propaganda showing trans people as gross, weird, or even violent. This politicking of an identity is exactly how noise is used when it comes to sound. Sounds are neutral but once they are defined as noise they lose their presumed neutrality and are painted as something unwanted and even dangerous. These outside definitions are exactly why building definitions and representation from within communities is so important.”

What is noise

- absence/disruption of signal
- unwanted /ignorable data
- Sound as noise
- Politicization of sound

### **Unwanted, Unintelligible, Unpleasant**

How is noise transgender

- Undefinable - non-binary
- Disruption to capitalist cycles (signals) based upon binary gender roles
- Nonn-linear paths of transition - always in flux

The transgender Noise Aesthetic

- “My proposal is that we as trans people need a collective aesthetic to bridge and connect to one another. To help outwardly define ourselves beyond the narrow definition constructed by cisgender people. I believe Noise is the key to building a transgender aesthetic. The Transgender Noise Aesthetic.”
- This already exists, i am merely building upon it and coining a name for the movement
- build spaces for trans people to exist safely
- Prompt discussions and movements outside of the norms - noisy transgender futures
- Highlight the political aspects of transness, noise, and art
- Living as art - art as living

## **my project sculpture & performance**

### Sculpture

- I've been thinking a lot about how life is given to objects - we create these things with so much, love, care, and attention to let them out into the world to be seen
- I see this art making process as life giving, the piece lives beyond me, it experiences emergence
- The work consists of:

3x fence

rope

twine

3x fence topper

Ceramic projection frame

obelisk, legs, and pedestal

noise table

5 x speaker cones - from nature (medium and small ones) & from Emily

3x pico projectors

2x tripods

3x media player

3x videos w/ audio

3x amps (mine + 2 from ran)

Rca cables

Speaker wire

Numerous power chords/extension chords

3.5mm audio cable

Hdmi cables

- Each element was as made by hand as I could really make it, everything was hand cut and welded, I tied all of the knots, hand dyed the rope, projection mapped and edited all of the videos and sound, I hand built all of the ceramic parts and raku fired them myself, it was truly a labor of love
- The audio and video was produced in quite a number of different ways and softwares, premier, AE, Touchdesigner, Ableton live, and VCV rack - leaning towards free softwares when applicable
- Videos Filmed on a 2000s era cam corder
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### **How does the work fit into The Transgender Noise Aesthetic**

- Machines and queer intimacy
- Noise in material processes (see below)

- Creating a body
- Queering the gallery space
- Performance as queer praxis - how building spaces can allow for catharsis and political engagement

## **Performance**

Life as material, sound as material, being and presence as material

Connections in the moment

Ephemeral nature of performance

Noise's impact on performance

- I Found there to be a grand sense of presence at the show, my own experience and many comments I got related to a sense of being present, from feeling the bass, to a clear head, to feeling ways one has never before
- Noise operates slightly differently than more 'traditional' music, it is much more about flows of energy and finding ways to feel aside from rhythm and melody, it's a more intuitive experience, less thinking and more feeling
- I decided I was going to scream the week of, it operated well within typical noise experiences but for me it operated as a personal catharsis, a time to get out feelings and emotions that have been pent up, a release among community,

## **the off beat**

Location - thankful to have the opportunity

Noise & institutions

Performance space as a gallery

Performing in the space

## **material processes - noise is in those**

- metal work - audio noise, noise of less than perfect welds, heat and speed
- raku firing - lack of control, heat, fragility
- technology - conversions of signal, ripe for disruptions, becomes unintelligible when its not understood
- video - never static, always in a state of transition between frames
- sound - literal noise, most direct connection, similarly always in transition, can dis/reorient people in a space, it has a physiological effect on people, you hear it and feel it.

- performance - ephemeral experience, cannot be replicated, contingent on randomness, on noise, creates a space where energy flows between audience and performer and back again, moments of connection

Intermedia making - came up in conversation with melanie

- Translation of skills between mediums
- Switch in mindset of making - how do you go from cant touch that its hot to, building entirely with your hands, to on the computer
- Practice in transition, making in constant flux
- Solutions to problems grow much faster as you aren't stuck in one medium/mode of making
- New stuff happens, opens the door for new interactions you may not have considered or seen

### **artist inspirations**

- I find inspiration more in the everyday than directly through other artists. Experiencing life is the most inspiring
- Gender transition, hike, exploring the city, conversations with a friend, etc.

A few artists I keep returning to:

- chavis marmol - materials, politics
- ai weiwei - materials, politics, culture as a readymade
- Danielle braithwaite Shirley - Black Trans Archive - digital transgender spaces
- Molly Vaughan - noise in materials, patterns, transgender art making
- uboa - noise music - The origin of my depression - devastation, solitude, noise and silence
- dreamcrusher - nihilist queer revolt musik - crying in the mud or dancing in the club -
- cae monae - club music - quote "Why did white people hate repetition? Because repetition is central to Black and brown musical practices. Like, let me repeat it till it hurts, until your stomach turns and you think, 'When is it going to stop?' You either get it or you don't! If you aren't going to scream, who else is going to scream?"
- decentering white supremacist ideologies in music, calling for a dismantling of existing systems that narrowly define music, call to scream

### **what went wrong, changed, process, site, etc.**

- switch from many sculptures to one
- exclusion of interactive elements
- rope dying
- happy accidents in video
- broken slab

- The frame

### **What have I learned - take aways**

- This was a lot of work - couldn't have done it without my community
- Trust your intuition, sometimes the idea that sounds crazy is exactly what's going to work
- Communicate early and often
- Effort and care pay off, and people notice
- I think going forward I may want to investigate ways of bringing in the audience to moments like these (screaming)
- I want to learn how to actually scream/growl/distort my voice for a more vocally engaged show as well as saving my vocal cords for longer, as well as increasing length of the screaming
- I have gotten a lot out of both making gallery work and performance, there is something so rewarding about process based art making, and tactile creation, however nothing really matches the electricity of performance, everyone is alive and here and together, we are all feeling as one
- **Promotion and event planning**

dates/times

Deals - \$

Tickets

Potsters

Merch - Shirts/Zines

### **thank yous**

- erin

- Seth

- Ran

- Carter

- Caesar

- Morgan

- davis

- Sarah

- Megan

- Andrew

Everyone else im surely forgetting

- Andre middleton and Friends of Noise

- Melanie stevens

- Jacob sirokman

## **Outline**

Intro - from paper

Defining noise

Transgender noise

The Transgender Noise Aesthetic

Sculptural work

What is it

How did i make it - materials, steel, raku ceramics, wood, rope, video, audio

Aesthetics - w/ artist references

How is it noise  
How is it transgender

Performance - halcyon noises

What was it - “performance art” vs concert

How did i make it - materials: performance, sound, video

Aesthetics - w/ artist references

How is it noise

How is it transgender

The Off Beat

Off campus - importance

What changed from the Proposal

What changed in the process of making

What did I learn

What's next?

Thank you