

# 5 Kinds of Noise

Multiple media from five New Yorkers

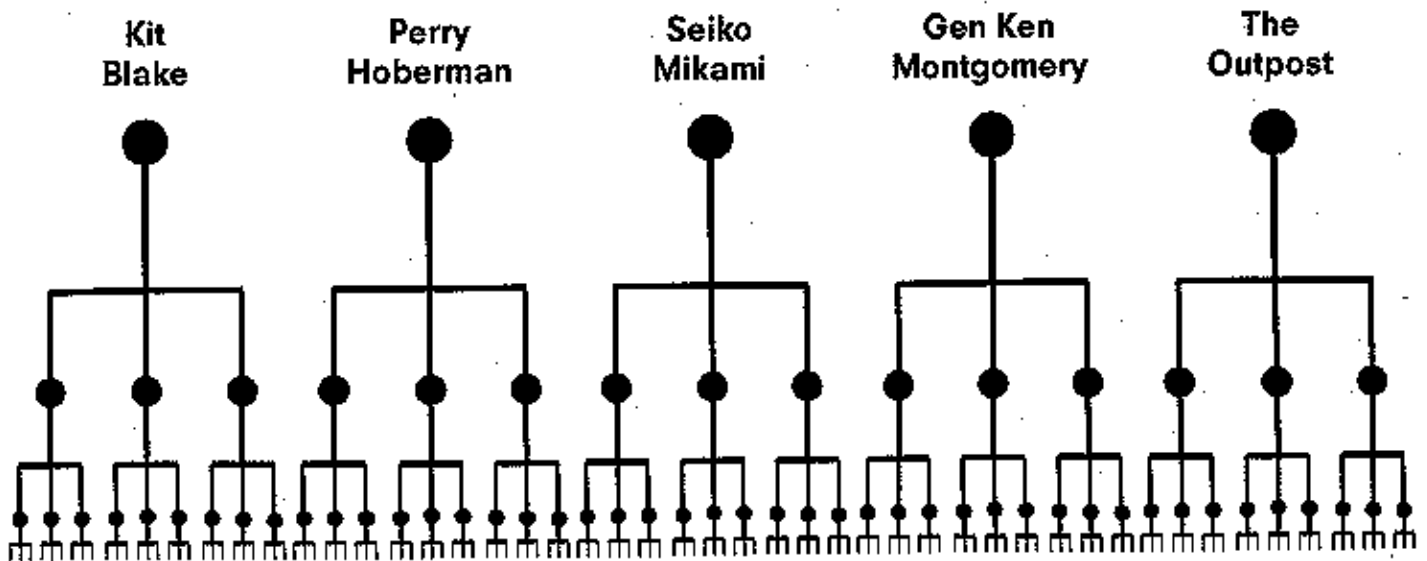
UNIT<sup>n</sup>  
Projektraum Wien  
Währingerstr. 59  
1090 Vienna, Austria  
Tel. 43 222 405 87 91  
Fax 43 222 405 87 93

19:00  
18 March 1993  
Kit Blake presents the  
work of Perry Hoberman,  
Seiko Mikami, Gen Ken  
Montgomery, The Outpost

In *Five Kinds of Noise*, Kit Blake will present the work of five people/entities: himself, Perry Hoberman, Seiko Mikami, Gen Ken Montgomery/Generator, Al Arthur-Ruth Kahn-Carlton Bright/Outpost Video. What they all have in common is a multifaceted and multiple media output, in that their work is created in a number of different mediums and technological forms.

The presentation will utilize a video beamer, three slide projectors, two sound systems, an Amiga computer workstation, and four portable cassette systems, or boomboxes. The different artists were asked to provide a 20 minute audio tape for Muzak (American jargon for the music played in department stores), a 20 minute videotape, and as many slides as possible. The icon on the cover illustrates the format of the visual media, with the video projection in the center, and three slides at the edges, in their vertical and horizontal positions. At certain points Kit Blake will voice in descriptions of works on view, while at other times the media will communicate alone.

The hierarchical icons on these pages indicate how some of the sections will break down further to include the work of other people associated with the artist.



## 5 Kinds of Noise

# Kit Blake



**Hardware artist, editor/publisher of WORM Magazine, Macintosh imagemaker, essayist**

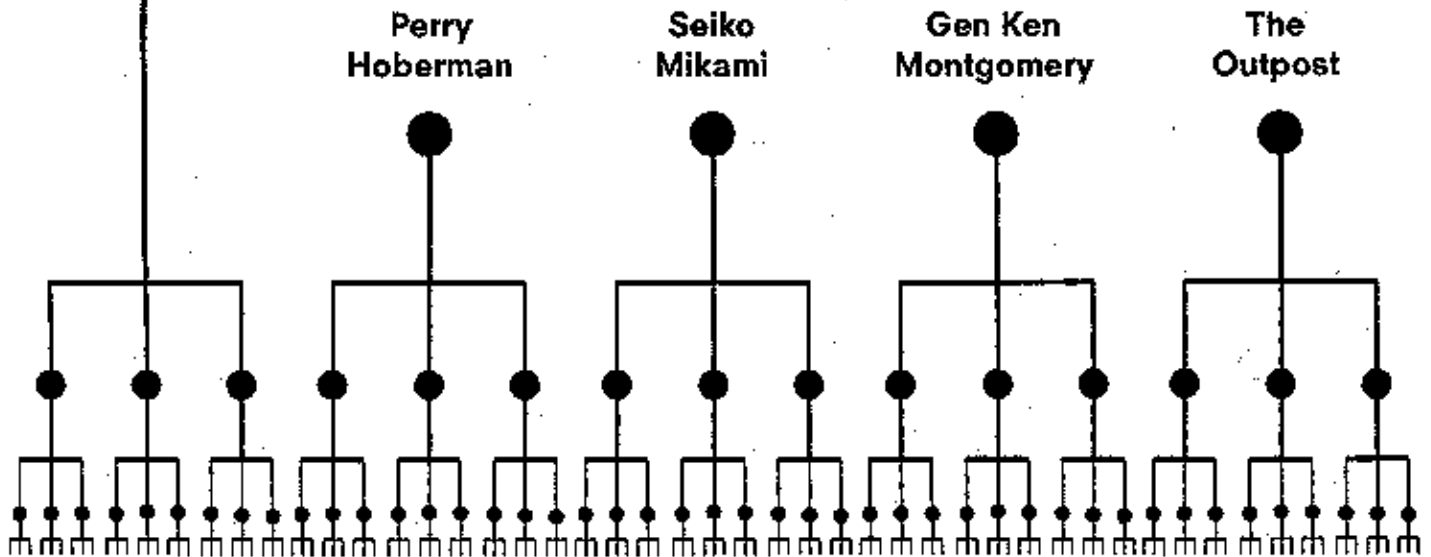
Kit Blake utilizes the materials and hardware of the information industries (computers, satellites, lasers, etc) to create active installations and pieces which explore the social transformation these technologies engender. Focusing on the interface between subculture and technological media, he questions and illustrates political ramifications of the changing cultural and commercial situations. One of his pieces will be on exhibit in the Projektraum.

He also edits and publishes the bimonthly magazine WORM. Primarily it focuses on the juncture between "art" and media, carrying social observation and media commentary. Each edition explores a different theme, with corresponding title, logo, design and content. It is available in bookstores in American cities and Amsterdam, or by subscription.

WORM is created on a Macintosh, and he uses the desktop publishing software to create image pieces which follow the same directions.

Periodically he writes short pieces in WORM and other publications and catalogs which explore media theory.

In 1990 he co-curated a double gallery exhibition of interactive art called Tweeking the Human. It showed a variety of sculptural work which required the presence of a human to be complete. This exhibit functions as a base for the Projektraum evening, since a number of people who participated are featured in the presentation (Perry Hoberman, Seiko Mikami, and Outpost, who videotaped the event). Cuts of the Tweeking the Human videotape and slides of the artists' work will be shown.



## 5 Kinds of Noise

# Perry Hoberman



## Interactive installations and performances, sculptor, videomaker

Perry Hoberman has a long history of interest in technology and the human-machine interface. His early work consisted of three dimensional image machines and performance events. More recently he has created interactive installations and performances using household appliances and contact sensors triggered by human viewer/ participants. He examines the social and commercial traditions built into the (especially American) modern day consumer society.

His current project is called the Empty Orchestra Cafe. It takes up an entire evening, being modelled after a karaoke bar (karaoke means empty orchestra in Japanese). The audience sits at tables, get served beer and drinks, and volunteer for turns on the stage just as in a regular karaoke bar. The song list they pick from are videos made by many different artists. The audience watches the performer with the video projected behind. A separate monitor enables the volunteer to see the words of the song as they pass across the screen. Hoberman wrote the program which creates, runs and projects the videos. It all functions on an Amiga system, and he asked various people to come over with a sound source, a video source, and words for the song. The results are as varied as the people who created them, and it all adds up to an evening of high/low entertainment.

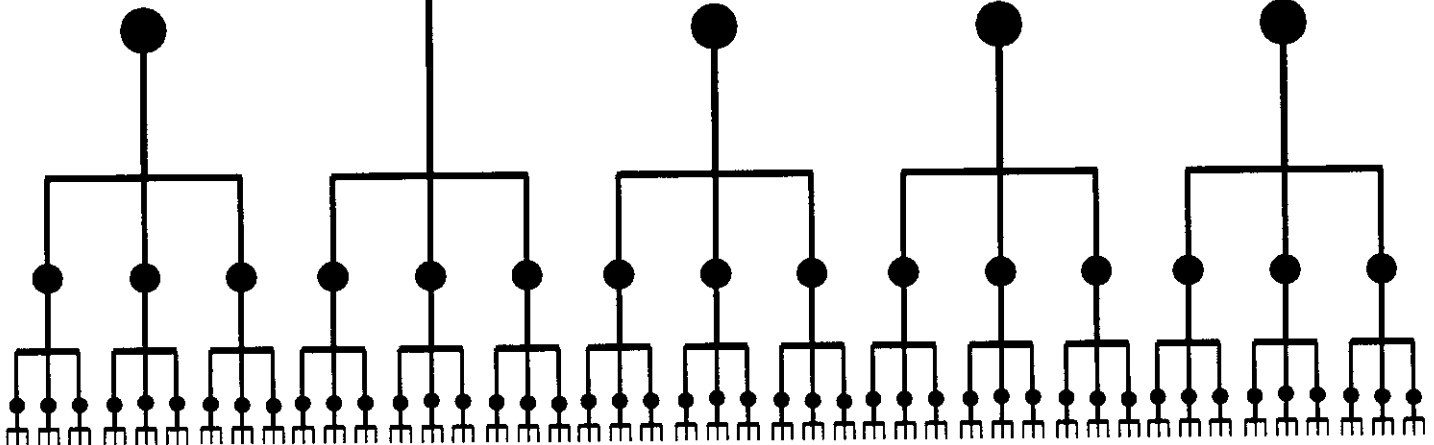
The Projektraum presentation will feature slides and video of installations and performances and selections from the Empty Orchestra Cafe video playlist.

Kit  
Blake

Seiko  
Mikami

Gen Ken  
Montgomery

The  
Outpost



## 5 Kinds of Noise

# Seiko Mikami

## Technological sculptor, Macintosh hacker, publisher

Originally from Tokyo, Seiko Mikami moved to New York City three years ago after making a name for herself in the Tokyo youth culture underground. She created a series of huge installations in factories and laboratories which dealt with themes such as the electronic urban infrastructure/nerve system, human brain technology, information war, and the super clean high technology environment. More recently she has been exploring the situation of the human body in medical, social, military and research fields.

One of her pieces, called Information Weapon, has a scatter bomb suspended in the air. Strewn about the floor are bomblets made from circuit boards with a mini-TV inside. Each TV receives a broadcast from a remote VCR, and carries a news program from a different country.

A more recent series is suitcases filled with some type of research container, such as for biohazardous materials, with the bottles visible through a vinyl window, all covered with graphic stickers conveying information, images, and questions.

Mikami creates animations and graphics for her pieces on a Macintosh. Some of the animations will shown on videotape for the Projektraum presentation, along with slides of her installations.

In the fall her book World Membrane will be published. It explores the disappearance of the human body due to technological innovation. She created 200 pages of visual information for it, and this will be accompanied by essays from some well known writers.

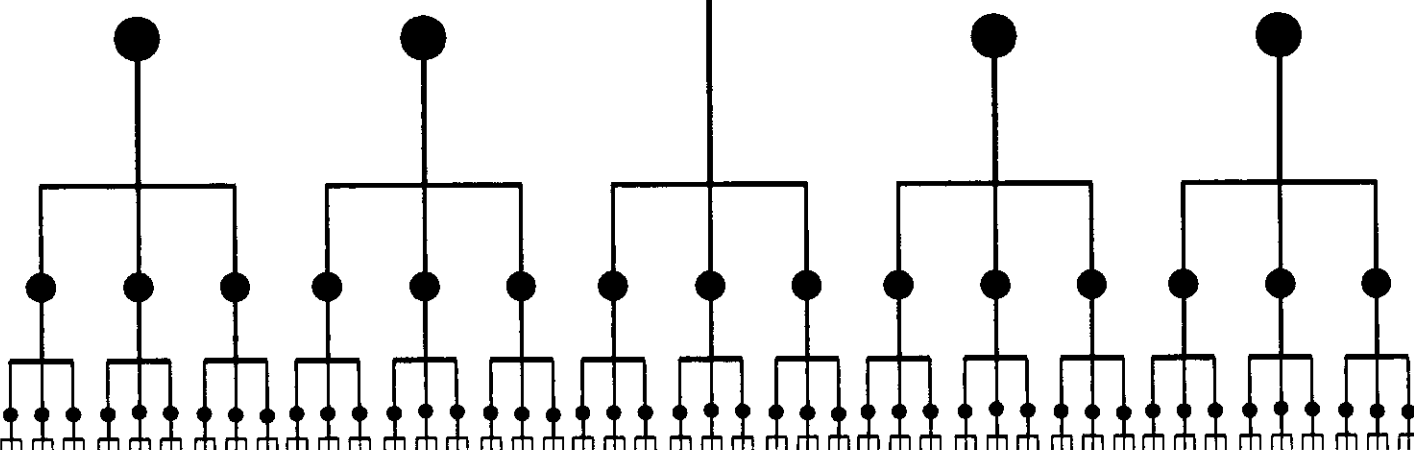
In June she will be mounting an installation at the Hubert Winter Galerie in Vienna.

Kit  
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## 5 Kinds of Noise

# Gen Ken Montgomery

**Sound artist/composer, Director and founder of  
Generator, Macintosh computer graphics, curator**

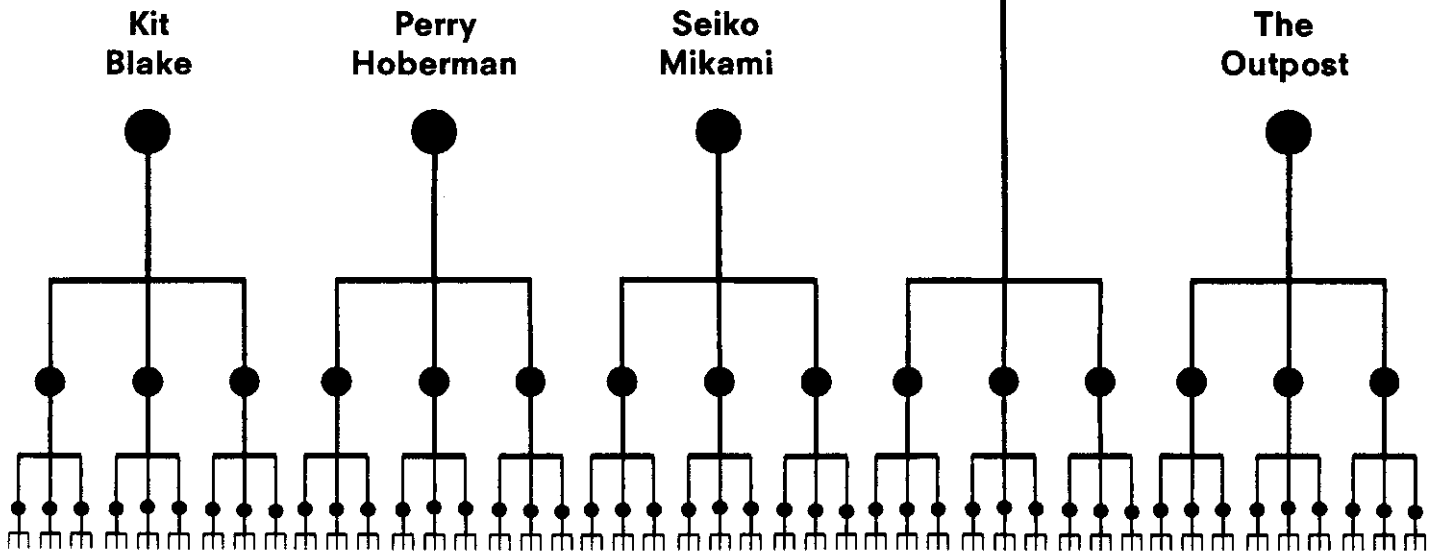
"Music became Noise became Sound became Experience" reads one of the Generator promotional stickers. This aptly describes Gen Ken Montgomery's personal work and the exhibition/performance he has orchestrated at Generator.

The Projektraum evening will include a section of a recent piece called Icebreaker. Four cassette decks are used. If it is live Montgomery mixes the sound of the four tapes so that it comes out differently each time. For this rendition audience members will be asked to adjust the volume of four boomboxes at will. All of the sounds in Icebreaker were created by recording and processing the sounds of a common household ice crushing machine.

Montgomery creates promotional graphics, posters, stickers, and invitations to performances and Generator events on a Macintosh, and documents the same on Hi-8 video.

He also maintains a huge archive of experimental sound work by composers and sound artists from all over the world.

The Projektraum presentation will include video cuts and slides of sound artists and performers at Generator.



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Al Arthur, Ruth Kahn, Carlton Bright.

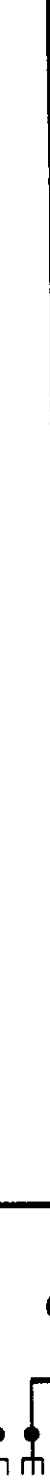
## Video installations, interactive databases, documentation

The three members of Outpost have both separate and collaborative work. Al Arthur comes from an experimental music direction and continues his personal work on the Amiga. Ruth Kahn makes temporal objects concerned with decay and chemical transformation. Carlton Bright documents political rallies and marches and makes 3-D image viewing module/pieces.

They work together taping and documenting the goings on in Williamsburg, Brooklyn (purported to be the "next big New York arts neighborhood"). Their efforts are exhaustive - they have videotape of every major event that has taken place there, and footage of many of the locally active artists in the neighborhood.

All of their activity recently came together in Radial Proboscis, a multiple monitor video installation spread out over a museum space. A central module houses a touch screen monitor and Amiga computer hooked up to a laser disk. Viewers navigate through a database containing video clips, text, slides and narration dealing with the scene in Brooklyn. A hierarchical visual menu system lets people explore various subjects such as the activities of a performance space, documentation of an artist, information about a local publication, the ethnic population and political situation.... The peripheral monitors display the choices of the person at the control module.

The Radial Proboscis will be installed at the Projektraum on an Amiga workstation for the presentation and will remain available until March 24th.

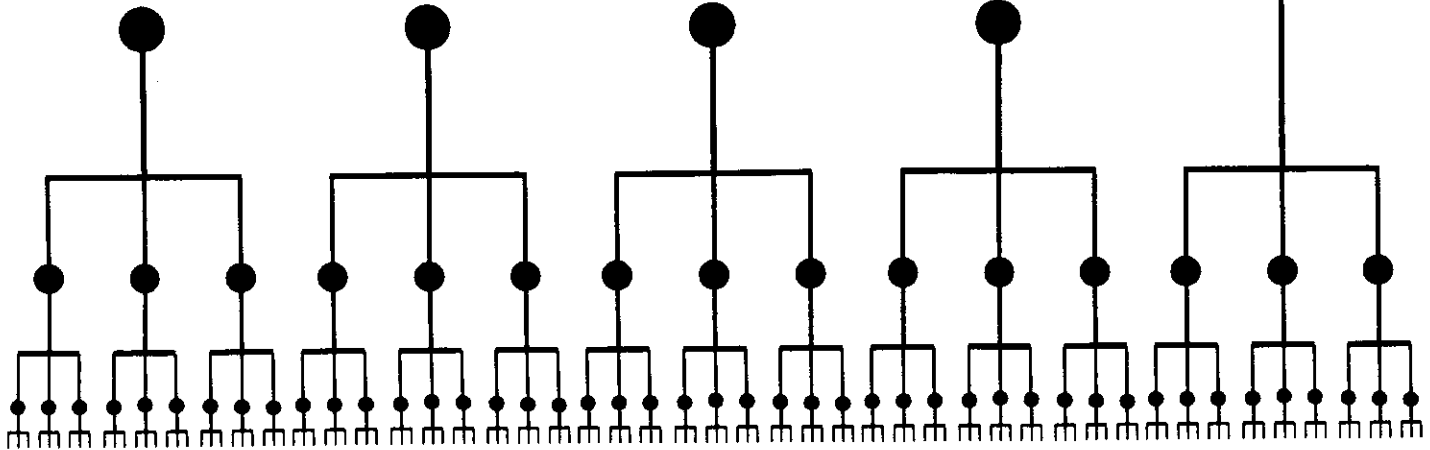


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