





Dumb Listening's  
Richard Carr

MOCA London  
1 July - 31 July 2018





## Dumb Listening's

This July MOCA London (Museum of Contemporary Art London) presents *Dumb Listening's*, the first international solo exhibition from Irish artist Richard Carr.

For *Dumb Listening's* Carr presents a new sonic installation developed specifically for the Museum of Contemporary Art, London. Comprising of three 'sonic objects', *Dumb Listening's* transforms MOCA London into a space for the ear; encouraging people to shift and listen through the deeply layered and visceral placements of sound. Utilising three Audio-Spotlight systems plus a combination of oral, environmental and everyday sounds, this exhibition furthers Carr's ongoing enquiries into the relationship(s) of sound-making and listening.

Tracing the story of Melkorka, Carr spent time in Iceland; listening, participating and immersing himself in the Icelandic sonic landscape. According to the *Saga of the Laxdalers*, Melkorka is an ancient, Irish princess who was kidnapped by the Vikings and brought as a slave to Iceland. Pretending she is dumb, Melkorka took a personal vow of silence in the attempt to shroud her royal, Irish upbringing. In her silence however, she embraced many roles such as concubine, friend, lover - slave, captive, mother.

*Dumb Listening's* evolves out of a core relationship with listening as an intuitively critical practice and sound as a physical, spatial and tangible material. When exhibited, it straddles a range of intersecting formal, spatial, sonic and art historical interests, which continually test the curatorial dimensions of working with sound within an exhibition context. Capturing sounds of interior and exterior spaces, Carr creates a sonic rhythmic landscape. The visitors shift between these spaces as they move around the gallery. They embrace multiple roles, that of the listener, the observer and the participant.

As an artist, Carr openly embraces the multiple, supplementary roles that he has found himself in or overheard through his day to day activities living in the South East of Ireland and traces of these can be heard in his work; from the curatorial, administrative and general arts-space dogsbody, to parochial/family politics, voluntary positions and shrouded small-town trickeries. These can be witnessed, more obviously however within the titles of his 'sonic objects' – *Next! What's your name? Say Money!*, *Small-town trickeries* and *Partner is probably too strong a word*. Taking this on board, this exhibition brings a personal, almost poetic sonic response to his Icelandic listening's, where we hear playful engagements with the gritty, mucky and noisy substances of sonic materiality.

THAT YOU CHARGE VERY HIGHLY  
THAT IS THE PRICE

If you want to know my  
name, I am called melkorka

THREE SILVER

Það verður  
vinna eða d

if you have one to sell

What is the price of that woman i











Y FOR THIS BONDS-WOMAN, FOR  
E OF THREE (SUCH)

You must have things to sell such as we should wish to  
buy

PIECES IS WHAT YOU MUST WEIGH ME OUT FOR HER

MÁS MIAN LEAT M'AINM A BHEITH AR EOLAS AGAT, IS  
MISE MELKORKA

KONAN AÐ GERA EITTHVAÐ  
ANNAÐ, EÐA ANNARS FARA  
away

if I should wish to buy her





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Featured pieces:

All the images are from Richard Carr's listening trip to Iceland.  
The inside back cover: The old Christian Brothers School in Gorey.  
Page 5: QR code excerpt - *Next, What's your Name, Say money!*  
Page 8: QR code excerpt - *Partner is probably too strong a word*  
Page 11: QR code excerpt - *Small-town Trickeries*

Ba mhaith le Richard Carr buíochas a ghabháil le Michael Petry, Roberto Ekholm agus le foireann uilig MOCA London as ucht cuireadh a thabhairt dó an obair seo a fhorbairt don mhúsaem. Ba mhaith leis buíochas a ghabháil le Cultúr Éireann agus ArtLinks araon as ucht an tionscadal a mhaoiniú, OpenGorey as ucht spás stiúideo agus tacaíocht riaracháin a sholáthar agus ar deireadh a theaghligh agus a chairde as a gcuid foighne agus tacaíochta le bliain anuas.

Richard Carr would like to thank Michael Petry, Roberto Ekholm and the whole MOCA London team for inviting him to develop this work for the museum. He would also like to thank both Culture Ireland and ArtLinks for funding the project, OpenGorey for providing studio space and administrative support and finally his family and friends for their patience and support over the past year.

[www.richardcarr.ie](http://www.richardcarr.ie)

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