

## SPACE, GATHER, MAKE: SHARED MACHINE SHOP SOUND

by **Kat Braybrooke, Adrian Smith & Vasilis Moschas**



In autumn 2017, contributors to this special issue collaborated with Tate Digital Learning to curate **Space Gather Make**, a mini-exhibit at **Tate Modern** in London that would use creative methods to explore the sights and sounds of shared machine shops from around the world as part of the **Art:Work** week.

In thousands of cities, towns and villages – from Japan to Ghana, from the Norwegian Arctic Circle to the United Kingdom – shared machine shops have been opening up where people can learn how to make things with mentors, tools and equipment. Space. By asking what worker-owned labour looked and sounded like at these sites, this issue’s practitioners envisioned their sites as distinct visual environments for a new kind of audience, each imbued with its own kind of ‘life’.

The exhibit also included a piece by London-based sound artist **Vasilis Moschas**, who created a conceptual audio installation that explored the unique sound environments of participating sites.

Combining practitioner contributions with machine-produced beats and spoken-word poetry, his work further illustrated the typical on-site experiences of flow, discontinuity, repair and breakdown.

### SHARED MACHINE SOUND



#### REPAIR

#### DISCONTINUITIES

#### FLOWS

#### BREAKDOWN

This is a free-flowing piece which explores the ways

shared machine shops sound. It was built from recordings contributed by site collaborators, combined with external machine-produced sounds which include manipulated samples and synthesised beeps.

Its four chapters are based on the different aspects of production: There is FLOW in working processes, assembly lines and automation; DISCONTINUITIES in machine interferences, problems and multitasking; REPAIR when the machines get damaged; and eventually BREAKDOWN, the inevitable fate of both machinery and humanity.

The piece finishes with a human voice singing, implying the belief that the only thing that will remain at the end of it all is us, the human beings. But the voice, instead, comes only through a radio.

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- The ‘Repair’ poem featured in *Shared Machine Sound* is entitled ‘Sounds of a Repair Cafe’ by Martin Charter.