

Dry Heave Exhibition : May 2016



# DRY HEAVE

APRIL 18 - MAY 13

RECEPTION:  
**WEDNESDAY,  
MAY 4, 2016  
6 - 9 P.M.**

FOYER GALLERY  
(ART BUILDING)

Featuring Works by  
Alyssa Newton    Angie Allen    Shane Donaldson



*Dry Heave* was the result of a year long collaboration between Shane Donaldson, Angie Allen and Alyssa Newton from 2015-2016. As Honors Painting students they shared studio spaces and engaged in weekly critiques. Their interests and stylistic tendencies naturally influenced one another throughout that time. Initially they started out as figurative painters, but increasingly became interested in the themes of deterioration, ambiguity and abstraction. *Dry Heave* is the flowering of a cross contamination of personal philosophies and stylistic tendencies.

*Dry Heave* explores how deterioration unfolds in diverse ways: Alyssa focuses on the physical deterioration of the human body on a molecular level; Shane focuses on personal vices as a self destructive outlet and the resultant psychological deterioration; Angie uses structures as a metaphor for social contracts and personal editing required to fit within those structures.

In the months before the show, Shane and Angie became interested in the idea of a noise environment. They studied artists and musicians such as Jean Tinguely, John Cage, Pedestrian

Deposit (contemporary musicians who use their bodies as a medium for sound), Olivia Block (contemporary sound architect who creates sound maps of cities), etc. for examples of how artists re-purpose objects and sounds to create site specific ‘happenings.’ When there is a song without melody or an object without function what is its purpose? On the outset chaos and disorientation seems to be its only purpose; but in *Dry Heave* they used it as a tool to break down programmed thinking.

As their vision for a NOISE ENVIRONMENT grew, the exhibition space became more and more packed with found materials and haphazardly crafted sound sculptures. Altogether there were **four sound sculptures** that were set to timers. They all turned on and off at different times so that there was a constant slow quieting or quick loudening within the space.

The response to the environment was varied. Some students would sit in the space and study because of a white noise affect. Other students and professors were disturbed and requested them to be turned off during certain hours. (One student even posted their schedule on the wall so that the noise would be turned off during those periods.)

The noise sculptures were both the beating drum and the dissonant fog of *Dry Heave*: essential and peripheral. It was the closing exhibition for the academic year at Humboldt State University and the graduating semester for all participating artists. As a farewell exhibition and sort of bachelor degree thesis, *Dry Heave* concludes with a declaration to ambiguity, disruption of comfort and an ardent dedication to environmental ethics by repurposing waste for all aspects of the installation.

## Angie Allen Exhibition Statements

ARTIST STATEMENT: The heart of this body of work explores how a material can transcend its original function and generate unexpected associations. I consciously relied on found materials to describe a personally re-visioned world, as it represents a process of deterritorializing prescribed purpose. This re-visioned world communicates through plastic relationships, essentialized geometry and spatial obstructions. If there is a sense of confusion as how to approach this work, I would encourage viewers to ask themselves *how does my body respond to this constructed space?*

NOISE: Noise is chaotic, without pattern. It serves as a metaphor for a sort of deterioration of the rational mind. Any pattern that is derived from noise comes from a human desperation that is hell-bent on making sense out of everything. Deterioration as noise, noise as deterioration is the antithesis of compulsive spirituality, hero worship and excessive beauty. Only after the destruction of pre-determined structures are we free to re-construct our own environment. The rational mind must be forced through a grader, sifted and then reconstructed. This is its reconstruction.

---

### Documentation

Dry Heave Noise Environment Video <https://vimeo.com/168560363>

Shane Donaldson's Noise Sculpture Video <https://vimeo.com/181927199>

Sounded Crucifix Video <https://vimeo.com/159727694>