

Portland State University

PDXScholar

Art Talk AM

Archive Organized by Project Title

2009

Art Talk AM: An Introduction

Cyrus Smith

Follow this and additional works at: https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/art_talk_am

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Smith, Cyrus, "Art Talk AM: An Introduction" (2009). *Art Talk AM*. 1.
https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/art_talk_am/1

This Book is brought to you for free and open access. It has been accepted for inclusion in Art Talk AM by an authorized administrator of PDXScholar. Please contact us if we can make this document more accessible:
pdxscholar@pdx.edu.

**ART TALK AM
INTRODUCTION**

*Available nowhere on the AM dial, and now
scheduled in the afternoon, 'Art Talk AM' on
the radio relies on its mellow mood and
conversations to live up to the 'AM' title.*

ART TALK AM INTRODUCTION

CYRUS W. SMITH
IN CONVERSATION WITH CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS
KPSU RADIO 2008-2009

ART TALK AM INTRODUCTION

CYRILUS SMITH
IN CONVERSATION WITH CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS
KFSU RADIO 2008-2009

An introduction to the show, "Available nowhere on the AM dial, and now scheduled in the afternoon, 'Art Talk AM on the Radio' relies on its mellow mood and conversational tone to live up to the 'AM' title. Guests to the show are invited to engage in a one hour conversation about their work, as well as provide a few audio tracks to share with the audience."

This volume is in no way comprehensive. The choices made are not meant to diminish the contribution of any other guest to the show, as I have learned a great deal from

111 x 68 (1) Cover of *Art Talk AM* with Cyrilus Smith
April 22, 2008



An introduction to the text
Cyrus W. Smith

The following set of interviews were conducted by the author, while attending Portland State University in pursuit of an MFA in Art and Social Practice. Broadcast live on KPSU, Art Talk AM features guest lecturers from the Portland State University MFA Monday Night Lecture Series (PMMNLS), as well as local artists during the summer months and breaks in the lecture schedule. Formed initially as a compliment to the PMMNLS in the Spring of 2008, each show serves as an archive for the series by providing a full hour of conversation and music with each guest. This format is intended to allow for an amount of breathing room and slowness often missing in contemporary media. This space also allows for a conversation to develop, in tune with contemporary art's seeming drift away from visuality, toward storytelling and travelogue, as evidenced by the artists featured here.

This volume is in no way comprehensive. The choices made are not meant to diminish the contribution of any other guest to the show, as I have learned a great deal from

IMAGE /// Cyrus W. Smith featured with Regine Basha in KPSU Studios,
April 21, 2008.

each. I chose, however, to highlight those guests whose work resonated particularly well in the space of conversation, and whose practices are not easily conveyed in image. I also chose these few as a way to highlight my own interests and influences in art, so that this volume will serve as a document of my own research and investigation. Similarly, the arc of my education is continually present in my choice of questions, and especially by who I invited when given the chance. So, what you are reading is the process of my education, with an open invitation to learn along with me.

Perhaps most significantly, this volume serves as an example of my continuing drive to find practical application for my pursuits in education and life, a key component being the existence of Art Talk AM as a publicly available program and archive. This publicness and transparency, especially considering the live format, provided for a great deal of moments that I would consider less than memorable. In these moments, however, we are reminded of how very real and pertinent all of the moments in our lives are, no matter if we are "on the air." This methodology treats life as inseparable from art, suggesting that we are never rehearsing, and always producing; a frame of mind shared, I believe, with the Art & Social Practice program in general.

This mode of production is also an attempt to reconnect with the "human" experience; to make real what seems to

be an endlessly mediated and distanced reality in contemporary society. It is a way to listen for all of the pops and crackles, fits and starts, hiccups and mispronunciations, just to make sure that we are all still alive and well. The greatest reward being what this show has made clear to me: that the "art world" is actually very much in the "real world." (A simple notion, but one that has been particularly enlightening to me.) The interviews themselves having helped me see the art world not as an "other" elite class, but as a field of real people, with interesting lives, approaching their respective art-forms with enthusiasm and conviction.

///

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who have helped make this show possible. First and foremost I will thank Alex McCarl, the original co-host of Art Talk AM, without whom this show would not have been possible. Alex shows up in only one interview in this volume, in conversation with Harrell Fletcher and Jen Delos Reyes, but was present for the first ten interviews, choosing to act as facilitator rather than host, and taking time to train me on the process so that I could take the reins.

Thanks are also due to the guests themselves for taking the time to be part of this program. This show has never been an official part of our lecture series, but even so, most all

approached the interview with enthusiasm and openness, happy to contribute their time and energy.

In compiling these interviews, I owe a great deal to a team of transcribers: Crystal Baxley, Ally Drozd, Kennedy Smith, Janet Smith, and Eric Steen, who generously helped me sift through the many hours of audio. And finally, I'd like to thank Nicole Lavelle, for her wonderful work as the designer of this volume.

///

All interviews were conducted in the sub-basement of Smith Memorial Student Union on the campus of PSU,¹ the guests and I squeezing in to what is essentially a large closet with microphones and mixers.

I rarely prepared questions for the interviews, instead spending my time becoming familiar with the guest's work, so that the conversation might flow naturally from relatively few prompts. I let my own curiosity, and the gaps in my knowledge be clear, and guide my inquiry. I treated each guest as the expert on their own life and work; with myself taking the role of the inquisitive student and researcher.

NOTE /// 1. With the exception of Calvin Johnson, who was interviewed in Olympia, Washington at the Dub Narcotic Sound Studio, home of K Records.

The transcribed interviews are presented here, with relatively few edits. Though condensed, and edited for readability, I tried in every case to represent honestly the artists' manner of speaking. This form of transcription is intended to stay true to the live format, and is an attempt to capture the tone and cadence of the artists in conversation. If you would like to listen along, archives are available through the website, listed on the back page.

I hope you enjoy.

A complete list of interviews conducted by Cyrus W. Smith
for Art Talk AM on the Radio

2008

Spring Term (PMMNLS)

04.07 Storm Tharp
04.14 Marie Watt
04.21 Regine Basha
04.28 Heavy Industries
05.05 Rebecca Ripple
05.12 Edgar Heap of Birds
05.19 Karen Yasinsky
06.02 Amy Yoes
06.08 John Malpede

Summer Break

06.16 Harrell Fletcher
& Jen Delos Reyes
06.23 Matthew Green
06.30 Eva Lake
07.07 Dan Attoe
07.14 Zefrey Throwell
07.21 Adam Keller
& Stephanie Simek
08.04 Damien Gilley
08.11 Katy Asher
08.18 Paul Middendorf
08.25 Arthur Bradford
09.01 Jenene Nagy
09.08 Kristan Kennedy

09.15 Shelby Davis
09.22 Ashley Neese
09.29 Patrick Rock
10.06 Mack McFarland
10.06 Avalon Kalin

Fall Term (PMMNLS)

10.20 Buster Simpson
10.27 Matt McCormick
11.03 Darren O'Donnell
11.10 Courtney Fink
12.01 Hamza Walker

Winter Break

12.29 Chris Johanson
12.30 Calvin Johnson

2009

Winter Term (PMMNLS)

1.05 Lucky Dragons
1.12 Daniel Bozhkov
1.26 Michael Brophy
2.02 Edgar Arceneaux
2.16 Mark Beasley
3.02 Modou Dieng

Spring Break
(Contributions to Disjecta's CORE Radio)

3.09 Brian Suereth
3.23 damali ayo

Spring Term (PMMNLS)

3.30 MK Guth
4.20 Lee Montgomery

ART TALK AM /// ON THE RADIO

CYRUS W. SMITH IN CONVERSATION
WITH CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS
KPSU RADIO 2008-2009

Book 1 of 10

Please visit Art Talk AM at www.arttalkam.blogspot.com

ART TALK AM // ON THE RADIO

CYRUS W. SMITH IN CONVERSATION
WITH CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS
KOSU RADIO 2002-2009

Book 1 of 10

Please visit art.talk.fm at www.kosu.org

