



Francois J. Bonnet: *The Order of Sounds*  
September 6th 2016 7PM  
Hosted by Emily Harvey Foundation  
Suggested Donation: \$5, RSVP required

Blank Forms is pleased to host a talk with François J. Bonnet in celebration of the English translation of his new book *The Order of Sounds: A Sonorous Archipelago*.

Bonnet is a composer, visual artist, and artistic director of the Groupe de Recherches Musicales of the National Audiovisual Institute (INA-GRM) in Paris. In addition to *The Order of Sounds* he is the author of *L'inframonde*.

In *The Order of Sounds*, François J. Bonnet makes a compelling case for the irreducible heterogeneity of 'sound', navigating between the physical models constructed by psychophysics and refined through recording technologies, and the synthetic production of what is heard. From primitive vigilance and sonic mythologies to digital sampling and sound installations, he examines the ways in which we make sound speak to us, in an analysis of listening as a plurivocal phenomenon drawing on Foucault, Deleuze and Guattari, Barthes, Nancy, Adorno, and de Certeau, and experimental pioneers such as Tesla, Bell, and Raudive. Stringent critiques of the 'soundscape' and 'reduced listening' demonstrate that univocal ontologies of sound are always partial and politicized; for listening is always a selective fetishism, a hallucination of sound filtered by desire and convention, territorialized by discourse and its authorities.

Bonnet proposes neither a disciplined listening that targets sound 'itself', nor an 'ocean of sound' in which we might lose ourselves, but instead maps out a sonorous archipelago—a heterogeneous set of shifting sonic territories shaped and aggregated by the vicissitudes of desire and discourse.