

## PRESS RELEASE

28 May 2013

# SoundFjord

contemporary art  
that's curious of ear

## Liminal (Frances Crow and David Prior) *Of This Parish*

**Installation:** 08-09 June 2013 (2-6pm) | Free entry

**Performance lecture:** 08 June 2013 (12:30-1:30pm) | **Free tickets:** [www.ofthisparish.eventbrite.com](http://www.ofthisparish.eventbrite.com)

SoundFjord, Unit 3b – Studio 28, 28 Lawrence Road, LONDON, N15 4ER

**Opening hours:** SATURDAY: 12:30-1:30 (lecture); 2-6pm | SUNDAY: 2pm-6pm



Bells have had a central role in the formation and solidification of communities. They have an immense power to evoke, to impart a feeling of time passing, foster reminiscence and to consolidate an individual's identification with an auditory site. The idea of a 'Parish' – a common device used to delineate territory while also defining a sacred community – is an articulation of acoustic space: the Parish can therefore be said to be the zone in which a church bell can be heard. This notion of 'Parish' as phonosphere is the point of departure for *Of This Parish*.

In April 2013 sound artist/composer David Prior and architect Frances Crow were invited by Binaural/Nodar to contribute to their residency programme as part of their Divina Sonus Ruris: Creative Labs in Sound Art programme (Sound of the sacred in the rural environment) in the Gralheira mountain range, North Portugal.

Their work focused on the bells of the Parish Church in Sul, which formed the epicenter of the project. During the 3-week residency, Liminal devised 4 sound walks that were undertaken simultaneously by 8 young people from the surrounding areas of Oliveira, Aveloso and Sul. The walks started from the Sul Parish Church, to the sound of its bells being rung. At the beginning of the walk, the 8 recordists stood in pairs, back-to-back, each facing in the direction of the four compass points and then walked slowly along existing paths and roads that led most directly North, South, East and West.

The subsequent recordings were played back in the church simultaneously, each recording rendering the acoustic scene from a different perspective to the others. At the beginning, the recordings sound very similar but as the recordists move along their respective paths, only sounds loud enough to permeate each local environment – such as the church bell – permeate all four recordings. In this way the presentation of these four recordings in a single space creates an impossible listening experience, collapsing the entire acoustic territory of the Parish into its epicentre; the church that defines it. This site-specific installation was presented as part of the Tramontana Festival in Sul, on 27 April 2013.

During the weekend 08 – 09 June, Liminal will present an installation specially devised for the SoundFjord gallery based on ideas, sounds and images developed during the residency. At 12:30 on Saturday 08 June, Liminal will present a performance lecture in the gallery. The event is free, but a seat reservation must be booked (no admin fee) here: [www.ofthisparish.eventbrite.com](http://www.ofthisparish.eventbrite.com)

Liminal's attendance at the residency and presentation at SoundFjord is made possible with support from Binaural/Nodar, Arts Council England and Falmouth University's Sonva research group.

Please see over the page for biography

## Biographies:

**Liminal** is a partnership between architect Frances Crow and sound artist and composer David Prior that we founded together in 2003. Our work focuses on exploring the relationship between sound, listening and the environment. It encompasses site-specific interventions and sound walks, gallery installations, performances, research and consultancy as well as sound and music environments for exhibitions.

Our work lies in the space between our respective practices and begins with an aspiration to use sound as a means to articulate space. Within the context of Sound Art, Sound Design and Research, we design environments, make listening devices and offer solutions to the challenges met by architects, master-planners and exhibition designers in making creative use of sound. Through our arts practice, we explore wider questions on the theme of sound and listening and its relationship to culture and the environment.

Our most recent piece *Of This Parish* explores the idea of Parish as defined by the earshot of a bell - a common device used to delineate territory while also defining a sacred community. The Parish as articulated through acoustic space can therefore be said to be the zone in which a church bell can be heard. This notion of 'Parish' as phonosphere is the point of departure for *Of This Parish*.

In 2010 Liminal won the prestigious PRS for Music Foundation's New Music Award for their piece *Organ of Corti*, an acoustic instrument which mediates the sound of the environment, by recycling road traffic noise. *Organ of Corti* subsequently won the John Connell Innovation Award 2011 and received an Honorary Mention at Prix Ars Electronica 2012 in the Digital Music and Sound Art category and was shortlisted for the Phonurgia Nova Awards 2012. Since 2011, Liminal have created sound environments for exhibitions including New York Historical Society, National Maritime Museum, London and the Heartlands Tin Mine Museum, Cornwall, UK. They have also published articles in Performance Research and Leonardo Music Journal and presented papers on sound, listening and the environment at conferences including Supersonix, Exhibition Road, London and NeuroArts, Plymouth. In 2011-12 Liminal participated in European funded research project into Soundscape design (ECOST) and sound master-planning for the town of Assen, NL. We have most recently presented a paper on the relationship between aural history, narrative and soundscape at the Sensuous Knowledge Conference in Bergen, Norway 2013.

**David Prior** is a composer and sound artist with a particular interest in the relationship between sound and space. His work spans compositions for acoustic instruments, live electronics and fixed media as well as radio programmes, sound installations and sound walks. After a first degree in Music and Religious Studies, David completed a PhD in music at the University of Birmingham in 2000 having completed residencies at the Banff Centre for the Arts, Canada, Les Ateliers UPIC, Paris and the Technische Universität, Berlin where he was a guest of the DAAD. David is associate professor in Music and Sound Art at Falmouth University.

**Frances Crow** is a qualified architect who has worked in practice since 1998. Following her training at Liverpool John Moore's University and the Bartlett, University College London, she worked for a number of national and international architects, both in London and Berlin. Between 2002 and 2007 she worked as a part-time senior lecturer at Plymouth University in the School of Architecture and the i-dat research group. She started her own design practice in 2007, which concentrates on ecological solutions for small-scale projects. Her approach to the process of design is to work at a multi-sensory, micro scale and this preoccupation is continued through liminal by concentrating on the often-overlooked sense of hearing. Our past projects can be viewed online at [www.liminal.org.uk](http://www.liminal.org.uk)

**SoundFjord** is a not-for-profit multi-disciplinary creative hub (with nomadic curatorial tendencies) dedicated to offering artists a platform for interdisciplinary work and critical discourse in and around sound and listening; fostering creative collaboration and dialogue between the fields of contemporary art, music, architecture, ethnography, computer science, sensory research and beyond. SoundFjord presents itself as a nexus for research and networking events, as an occasional venue for live performance within the field of experimental music and sound art, as host to lectures, workshops, talks and critiques in and around creative sound practice and research, and also as a collaborative force, motivated to work with other inspired individuals, collectives, galleries, venues, recording labels, institutions and foundations to assist with the materialisation of creative ventures, projects and events.

[www.soundfjord.org](http://www.soundfjord.org)

## Further Information

**Exhibition:** [soundfjord.org/exhibitions.htm](http://soundfjord.org/exhibitions.htm)

**Event details and bookings:** [soundfjord.org/eventsperformance.htm](http://soundfjord.org/eventsperformance.htm)

**Visiting the gallery:** [soundfjord.org/visitorsinfo.htm](http://soundfjord.org/visitorsinfo.htm)

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