Cate McQuaid

Play. Witness. Create.

At the Quarry

Posted on September 10, 2013 by Cate



This past weekend, Contemporary Arts International staged its first major event, the Festival of Sound Art and Performance Art at the Quarry in Acton. The 12-acre site includes a performance barn with a couple of stages, two galleries, and ample opportunity to perform outside. Sculptors Viktor Lois and Yin Peet have been at work setting the Quarry up for 10 years; it officially opened in 2010, with artist residency programs. They enlisted board member Geoffrey Koetsch to put together a festival of some of the leading lights of the thriving sound art and performance art scenes in Boston. On the ticket over the weekend: Performance artist Marilyn Arsem, composer and clarinetist Evan Ziporyn, sound artist Jed Speare, and Jeffu Warmouth, pictured above in a still from his performance video "Three Heads are Better than One." Ziporyn, when invited to headline, accepted because he lives in Lexington and was eager to get concerts cooking in a nearby town, but when he saw the place – which is dotted with sculptures both goofy and monolithic, and packed with Lois's sound machines – "It was like arriving at a Disneyland for artists," he says. "It's beautiful and strange and inspiring, and I wanted to be a part of whatever was going on."

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