

# STEPHEN VITIELLO

World Trade Center Recordings:  
Winds After Hurricane Floyd

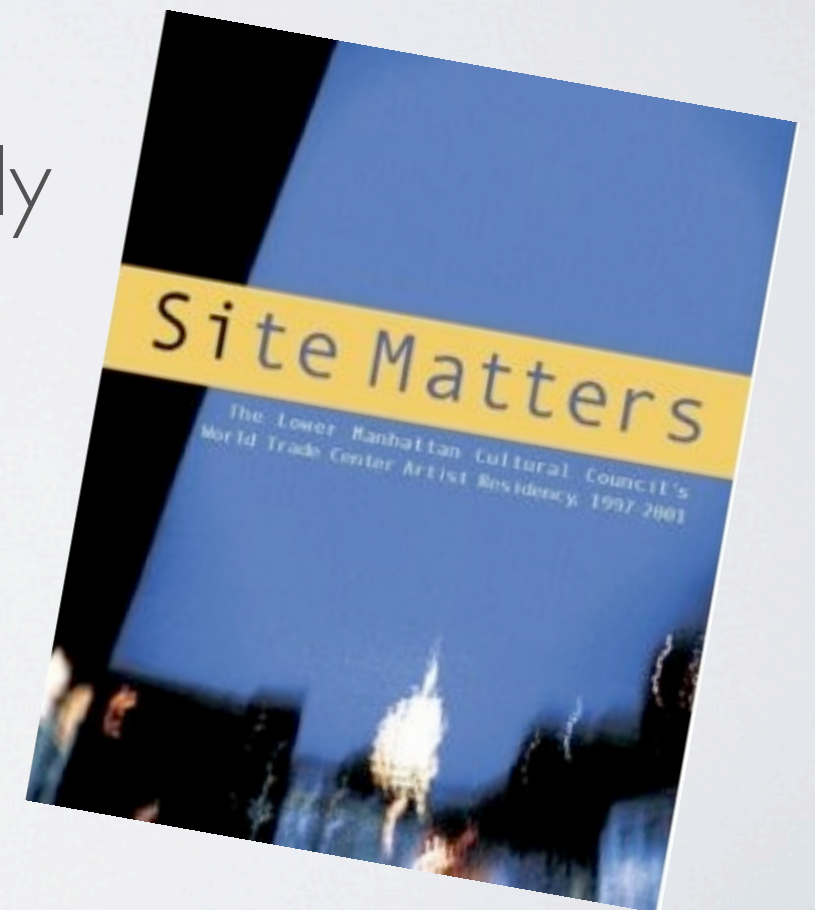
# LISTENING WITH INTENT

<http://www.abc.net.au/arts/stories/s3145981.htm>



# WTC ARTIST RESIDENCY

- Active from 1997 to 2001 (continued at other sites).
- 127 artists participated.
- Residency space comprised offices recently vacated following the late-nineties Asian financial crisis.



# 1999 SUMMER RESIDENCY

- Artists included:
  - Jennifer and Kevin McCoy (guest lecture October 12 through the Photography & Film department)
  - Paul Pfeiffer



# WTC / 9-11 FACTOR

- Work was created in response to site.
- WTC was important for Manhattaners and international financiers, but not a site of tragedy or terror.
- Art is situated in history; its meaning changes over time.
- After 9-11 documentation of WTC was in demand.
- Delicate balance between accepting the attention this external factor brings, while not letting it define him as an artist.

# ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT

- Crucial to Stephen's development from musician to sound artist.
- Proposed work was to incorporate ambient sound as an accompaniment to guitar-driven music. Influenced by Maryanne Amacher.
- Expected to be able to open windows, record high-altitude winds, distant city sounds, etc.
- Thwarted by sealed windows, distance of outside objects.



# ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT

- Resistance demanded experimentation—contact microphones and photosensors to bring the outside in through the glass.
- Stephen's prior work had involved crafting sound for others' images. At WTC he was inspired to treat the location as his own image and create site-specific sound in response.

# DISCOVERIES

- Expanded reality effect — on entering the studio people became intuitively aware of their elevation.
- Sound became visceral, destabilizing.
- The less he added to the found sound, the richer it seemed.



# SOUNDS OF THE WTC

<http://www.studio360.org/2011/sep/02/the-sounds-of-the-world-trade-center/>



Johanna MacArthur, 1999





Johanna MacArthur, 1999





Stephen Vitiello, 1999





Johanna MacArthur, 1999



Johanna MacArthur, 1999





Stephen Vitiello, 1999



Stephen Vitiello, 1999





Stephen Vitiello, 1999





Johanna MacArthur, 1999







Johanna MacArthur, 1999



# THANK YOU

- **Stephen Vitiello** Associate Professor **Kinetic Imaging** VCU  
[stephenvitiello.com](http://stephenvitiello.com)
- **John Priestley** Doctoral Student **Media Art & Text** VCU  
[johnpriestley.net](http://johnpriestley.net)