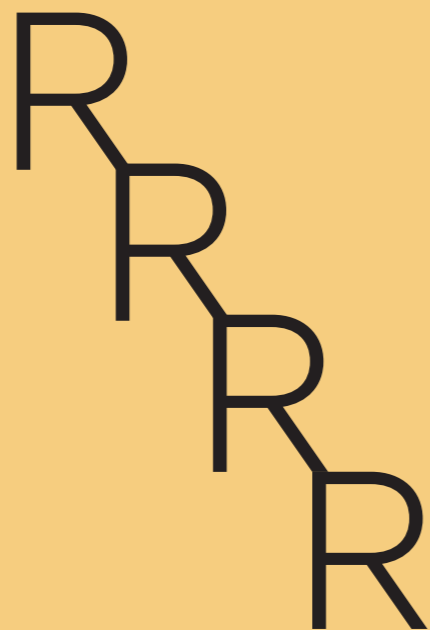




Five
Radio
Stations
2nd season

Press Kit
January 2025



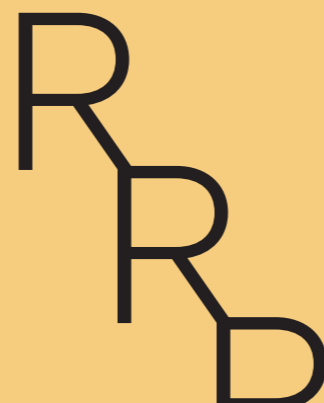
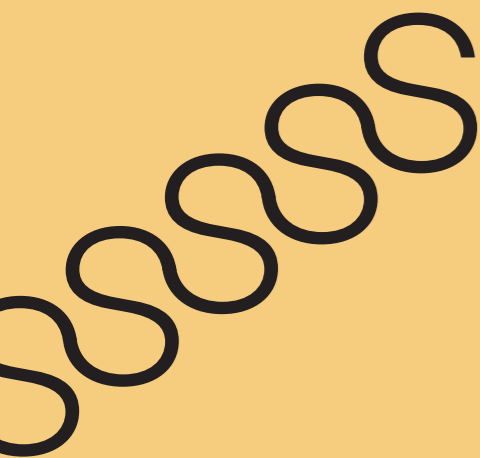
Lab'Bel, Groupe Bel's artistic laboratory, is pleased to present the second season of *Five Radio Stations*, a series of artworks by five leading contemporary artists, each doubling as an internet radio station to be listened to as and when the audience prefers.

Each of the resulting projects exploits the unique possibilities of a century-old medium while continuing to explore the themes and issues specific to their personal practices.

The five sound works differ in both content and form from the podcasts that dominate online audio today, opening up windows into the singular worlds of each of the artists involved. They are discovered in real time, with no possibility of interrupting, speeding up or slowing down the flow of sound. Combining natural and artificial sounds and dialogue, they give us a chance to refocus our attention on everything from the song of a bird in a faraway city to the polished rhythms of modern rhetoric.

The 2025 season comprises new commissions from the following five artists, hailing from a wide range of geographical backgrounds: **Claude Closky** (France), **Jenny Odell** (USA), **Yuri Suzuki** (Japan), **Isa Toledo** (Brazil) and **Nico Vascellari** (Italy).

As with the first installment, the second season of *Five Radio Stations* is curated by Seb Emina and Silvia Guerra.



Where can I listen to *Five Radio Stations*?

The stations can be listened to via any smartphone, tablet or computer simply by going to the website www.fiveradiostations.com. The works can be enjoyed like any radio station, as a focus or in the background, and for a shorter or longer duration of time. Although they are automated, the stations are not on-demand but streamed as live, meaning each listener hears the same thing at the same time as an invisible community of other people.

Broadcast period:

The second series is available between January 18 and December 31, 2025.

Following a proposal by Julien Viteau and Laurent Fiévet, the second season was launched at Passage Molière in Paris on January 18, 2025. The Maison de la Poésie's small auditorium was home to Claude Closky's radio station, and its atmospheric library to Isa Toledo's project. The stations of Nico Vascellari and Yuri Suzuki were broadcast in the two rooms of the EXC bookstore. L'Écritoire, a stationery shop, broadcast Jenny Odell's station. Lab'Bel would like to warmly thank the management and staff of these establishments for their contribution to the project.

Introduction

In the 1950s and 1960s, a series of small ships positioned themselves in international waters close to Europe and began to emanate radio signals. Among these original pirate stations were Radio Mercur near Copenhagen, Radio Nord by Stockholm, and Radio Caroline in the North Sea off the English port of Felixstowe. Such nautical enterprises were interested in breaking the entwined shackles of corporate and governmental control so as to play the music they wanted, but their method of doing so had other consequences too. Because didn't the Rolling Stones' cover of 'Not Fade Away' — the first track broadcast by Radio Caroline — arrive with a salty splash of sea spray, even when heard from a bedroom in London, Paris or Amsterdam? And isn't this connotation and its subsequent equivalents absent when the record is selected via the bland interfaces of on-demand streaming services? The point being that radio is more than the sum of the sounds it contains.

No sea vessels have been necessary, of course, to transmit the five audio artworks that comprise the second season of *Five Radio Stations*. The internet and related technologies have long since broken down the old barriers to broadcasting, and redefined what radio means. But somehow the medium has held on to its potential to connect with real places, even as online technology has brought new complications — not least an alienating sense of disembodiment — into play.

Those complications, and the 'real world' they smooth over, are among the many motifs running through this group of new works by Claude Closky, Jenny Odell, Yuri Suzuki, Isa Toledo, and Nico Vascellari.

Rose Garden Radio, Jenny Odell's mostly untreated recordings of a Californian rose garden are rooted in her famous desire to remember how to do nothing. Nico Vascellari's equivalent offer of radio-based teleportation to a town in northern Italy involves the interjections of a traditional bird-call imitator, forcing our point of (aural) view to adopt the language of another species. These projects involve geographical leaps of imagination that remind us to listen more carefully to our own immediate surroundings. To pay attention, in other words.

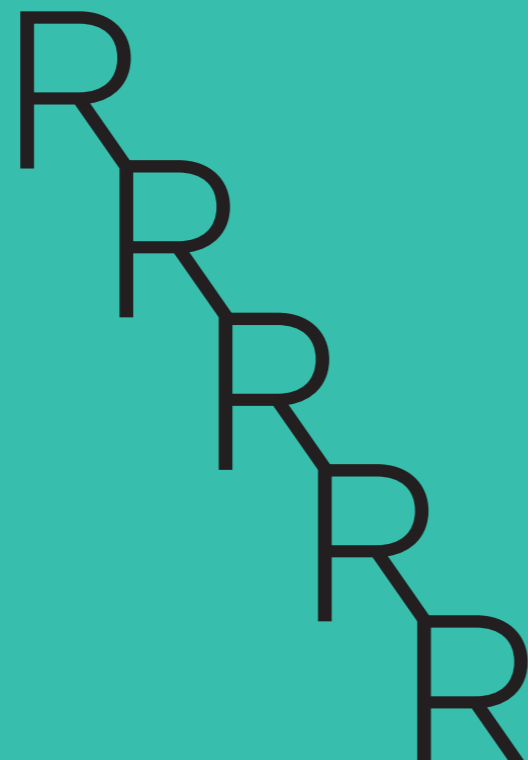
As Patricia Lockwood once put it, "attention is holy". The never-repeating political broadcast that is Claude Closky's *Talk-Show* assembles rhetoric tailor-made for a hyper mediated world, which, even divorced of its original context, retains an eerily effective ability to seize that attention. The multi-layered monologue of Isa Toledo's *Redescription*, meanwhile, ends up unlatching not only her own inner voice but that of an advanced AI chatbot, which it does via a parade of disembodied literary references: a radio of the cyber-fragmented self.



Finally, in Yuri Suzuki's *AI Acid FM*, we return to the subject of pirate radio, which, by the time of the rise of acid house at the end of the 1980s, had migrated from the seas to the city. Suzuki's synthetic, frenetic music station, hosted by a tinny Japanese-speaking bot, is a homage to the pirate stations he listened to in his youth. Generated by AI yet curated by Suzuki so as to precisely recreate the sound of a bygone subculture, it proposes one possible negotiation between the real and the simulated.

The works in this second season, like the five that preceded them, prove that the collective listening experience made possible by radio is anything but obsolete, and that artists can achieve fascinating results by exploiting its potential.

By Seb Emina and Silvia Guerra, curators



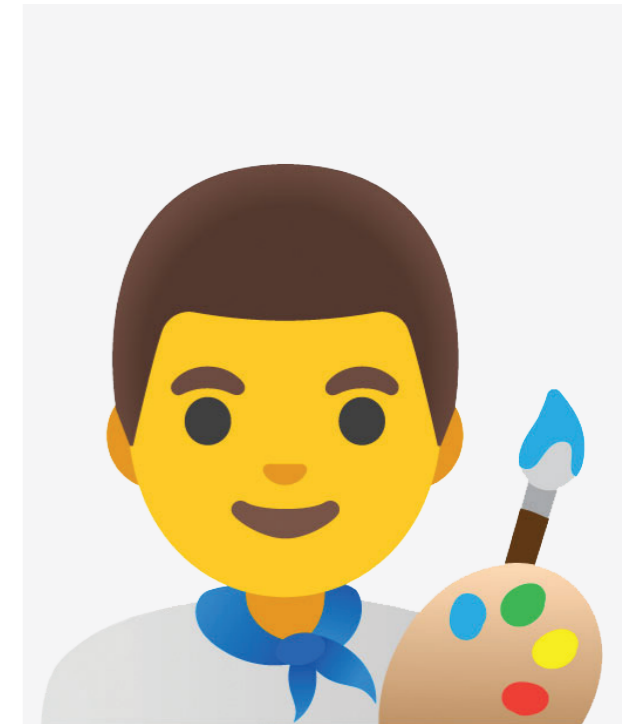
THE ARTISTS AND THEIR PROJECTS

Claude Closky

Born in 1963 in Paris (France)
Lives and works in Paris (France)

Through his eclectic body of work, Claude Closky plays with codes and logic systems of all kinds, whether metrical, mathematical, alphabetical or grammatical. From the simplest drawings to video, photography, collage, painting and audio media, as well as publishing and websites, he uses a wide range of means to create discrepancies and distort well-oiled mechanisms.

www.closky.info

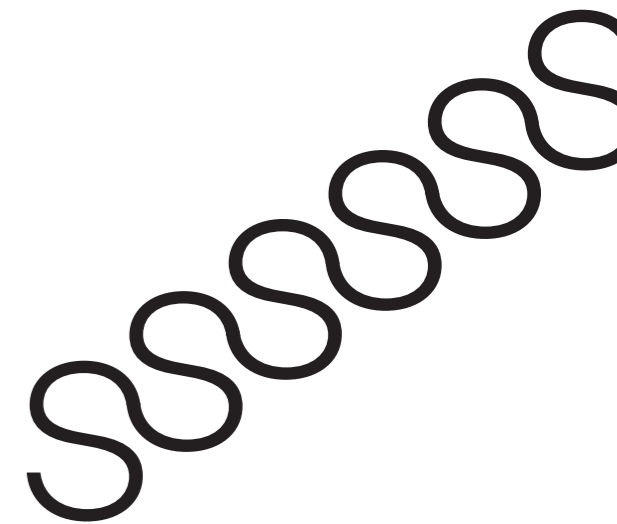


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Talk-Show

[Perpetual, generative radio]

In *Talk-Show*, five individuals transport the listener into the realm of TV news, where the public personas of political figures are established through the act of delivering certain phrases. Who are these speakers who try to convince listeners with their short sentences and ready-made formulas? By focusing on English, Closky draws on theories from thinkers such as Alastair Pennycook and Jan Blommaert, who examine the language's status on a global scale—a lingua franca wielded to construct identities and assert power relations.





Jenny Odell

Born in 1986 in San Francisco (USA)
Lives and works in Oakland (USA)

Jenny Odell is a multi-disciplinary artist whose work generally involves acts of close observation, whether in the form of birdwatching, collecting screen shots, researching trash, or trying to parse bizarre forms of e-commerce. She is especially interested in frameworks that allow us to perceive something new about everyday reality. She is the author of the books *How to Do Nothing: Resisting the Attention Economy* (2019) and *Saving Time: Discovering a Life Beyond the Clock* (2023).

www.jennyodell.com

Rose Garden Radio

[Audio loop, 02:59:58]

Rose Garden Radio captures the sonic soundscape of a public park, specifically a rose garden, in all its raw and stripped-down simplicity. There are children laughing, aeroplanes flying overhead, musical instruments playing, even toilets flushing. The station loops through recordings that Odell made during seven days in 2024; occasionally the artist herself interjects with a spoken taxonomy of sounds gathered. The choice of the Morcom Rose Garden in Oakland, California is not insignificant. Its importance to Odell is rooted in a celebrated talk she gave in 2017 entitled 'How to Do Nothing', later expanded into the influential book of the same name, published in 2020.



© Rima Musa

Yuri Suzuki

Born in 1980 in Tokyo (Japan)
Lives and works in London and Margate (United Kingdom)

Yuri Suzuki is a sound artist, designer and electronic musician. His aural and visual works explore human interrelationships, intersecting different aspects of culture and genre and engaging the public in a dynamic social discourse. Openness and inclusivity are key to Suzuki's practice: to be accessible to the many.

www.yurisuzuki.com

AI Acid FM

[Perpetual, randomized music radio]

AI Acid FM is a fictional streaming radio project where all content is generated by AI. The station streams an endless mix of acid house, acid techno, and rave tracks, seamlessly crafted by Google's AI music generation model *MusicLM*. Although the tracks are AI-created, they are carefully curated. Each selection reflects Suzuki's deep connection to the subcultures and sonic histories that define these genres, transforming raw AI output into something culturally meaningful.





Isa Toledo

Born in 1990, in São Paulo (Brazil)
Lives and works in Lisbon (Portugal)

Isa Toledo's work expresses itself through a variety of media, questioning cinematic images, those of social networks, traditions of all kinds, and the social norms of gender and class perpetuated by the media. She also explores languages, both oral and written, and the tools that shape writing.

www.isatoledo.com

Redescription

[Audio loop, 01:19:25]

Redescription is based on 19 notebooks that Isa Toledo kept from 2013 onwards, mostly to store literary quotations but then with occasional personal reflections among them. The artist describes her attempt to use ChatGPT to log and analyse the books' contents. The line between quote, diary and AI output becomes blurred as Toledo's spoken-word piece cycles through the work of Virginia Woolf, Thomas Payne, Herodotus, Samuel Beckett, Sēi Shonagon, etc.



©Mattia Zoppellaro

Nico Vascellari

Born in 1976 in Vittorio Veneto (Italy)
Lives and works in Rome (Italy)

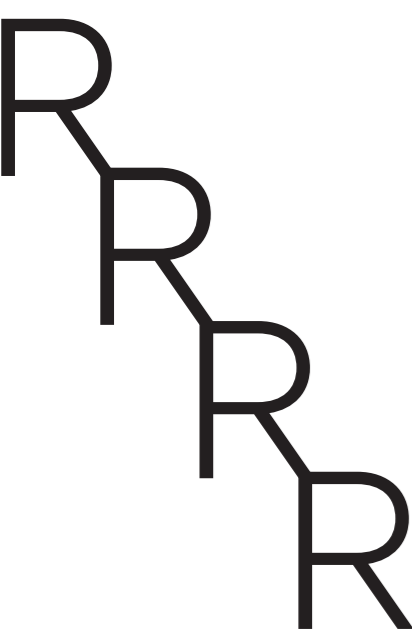
Nico Vascellari's research engages with various practices, including performance, sculpture, installation, drawing, video, and sound exploration. Through an anthropological perspective, his works examine the connection between humans and nature, ancient and ritual phenomena, folklore and traditions, weaving them together with an underground aesthetic.

www.nicovascellari.com

Total Resistance

[Audio loop, 00:10:09]

Total Resistance makes use of a sort of bird-call imitator known as a *chioccolatore* and traditionally found his home region in the north of Italy. The artist has explored these uncannily convincing figures before in performances such as *Revenge* (2018) at MAXXI in Rome. To prepare the station, a *chioccolatore* was recruited to visit various rather mundane locations in Vittorio Veneto (the post office, supermarket, café, church, etc) where bird calls and ordinary noises merge.



Five Radio Stations – First Season

The first season was launched during the Paris Internationale art fair in 2023 with a live concert by Benni Hemm Hemm, aka Benedikt H. Hermannsson, one of the project's artists. The stations were available online from October 21, 2023 to January 17, 2025 and reassembled the works by : **Keren Cytter** (Israel), **Benedikt H. Hermannsson** (Iceland), **Hylozoic/Desires** (India/United Kingdom), **Daniel John Jones & Seb Emina** (United Kingdom), and **Emeka Ogboh** (Nigeria).

List of locations that broadcast the first season of *Five Radio Stations*:

- William Morris Gallery, London (United Kingdom)
- Embassy of Iceland, Paris (France)
- Fiskars Village Art and Design Biennial, Fiskars (Finland)
- Seyðisfjörður Community Radio, Seyðisfjörður (Iceland)
- Festival Giungla, Lucca (Italy)
- Several stores in Parma (Italy)



CURATORS

Seb Emina creates projects spanning literature, art, publishing and technology. He was editor in chief of The Happy Reader magazine until its final issue in June 2023. With Daniel John Jones he is co-creator of the 'ordinary news' radio artwork *Infraordinary FM* (2023) and the perpetual morning-radio aggregator *Global Breakfast Radio* (2015-). With WePresent he is creator of Wild Memory Radio (2024), an audio museum of artists' memories. Originally from London, Seb Emina now lives in Paris.



©Carly Smith

Silvia Guerra is a Portuguese-born curator living in France. She has been developing her practice around the nearness of art fields, either visual arts and poetry, architecture and art, or radio and art. She started her practice as an actress and theater director and with *Metaphoria* exhibition series she explored to have actors as part of an exhibition, and continues to explore the displacement and movement inside the art scene. Guerra is the artistic director of Lab'Bel, a position she has held Since 2010.





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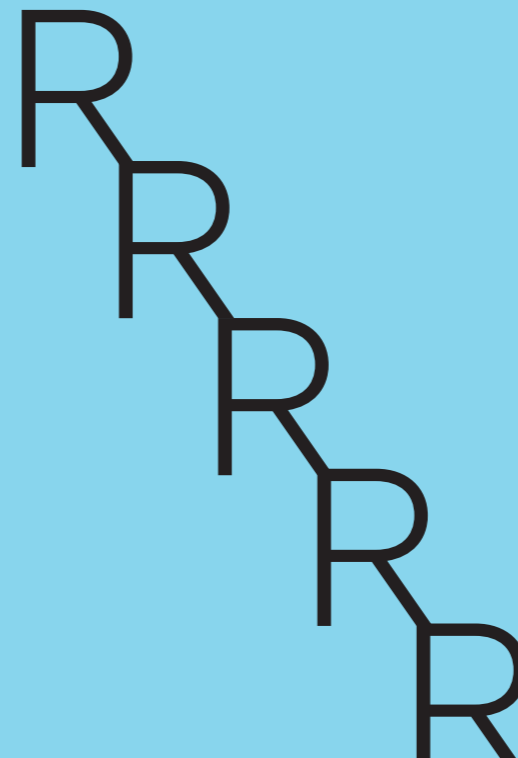
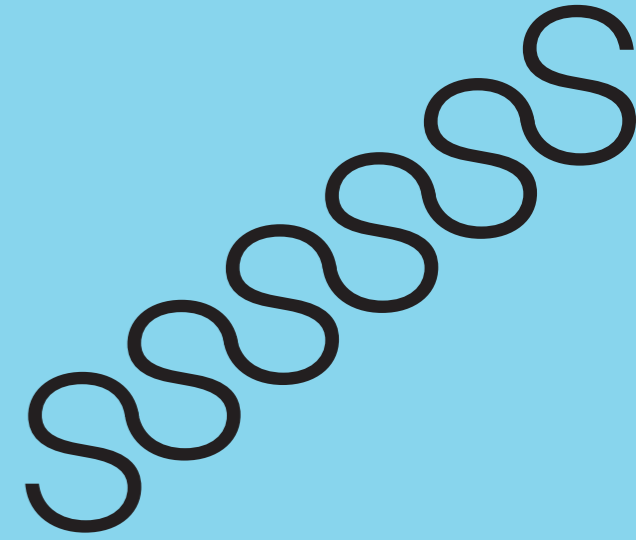
Lab'Bel is an endowment fund created in spring 2010 to support and contribute to the development of artistic creation. The activities of this laboratory of ideas and impertinent innovation are shared between the development of a contemporary art collection — now on long-term loan at the Musée des Beaux Arts in Dole — and the organization of exhibitions and artistic events throughout France and Europe. Lab'Bel is also behind a series of performative multidisciplinary projects ranging from modernist architecture to poetry or music.

Director : Laurent Fiévet
Artistic direction : Silvia Guerra

Website : www.lab-bel.com/en/

 [@Lab'Bel](#)
 [@laboratoire artistique bel](#)

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