Royal College of Art Postgraduate elective, Spring 2019

Presenters: Giulia Brancati and Karthika Sakthivel

Eleanor Dare, Head of Programme for MA Digital Direction, RCA
Matt Lewis, RCA Tutor and Sound Artist
Mary Stewart, BL Oral History Curator
Elective aims:

• Establish a new collaboration between RCA and British Library Oral History team

• Bring ‘new ears’ to British Library material focus on eleven specially curated British Library oral history interviews

• Engage new audiences two-day student-curated showcase at the British Library
• Enhance technical skills
digital editing, recording of soundscapes and visual media,
holographic construction, virtual reality, physical computing,
installation design and constructing high quality acoustic
environments.

• Provoke ethical and theoretical reflections
nuanced in-depth reading on narrative, audience, experiential
listening and ethics, to inform and challenge.

• Develop new creative practice
challenge to “think through sound”. Experimenting with deep-
listening, sonification, field-recording and in-depth
ethnographic research.
James Roadnight and David Sappa
*Meditations in Clay*

Raf Martins
*Beyond Form*
Alexia Remoleux  
*Donald in Wonderland*

Kingsley Tao  
*Stiff Upper Lip*

Short film exploring sexuality, identity and reactions to health and sickness including clips of the interview.
Reflections from Eleanor, Matt and Mary

- Selection of audio
  Extracts that worked - rich description, multiple senses, universal experiences. Several extracts didn’t work. Why?

- Course reading
  Exciting mix of key OH texts with course literature on deep listening, embodied listening, sound art and new media.

- Deep and repeated listening
  Group listening in seminars, repeated listening at home followed by reflection in the group.

- Skills acquisition
  How RCA worked with the students to provide training, teaching and support in new skills in digital media, technology and art.
Reflections from Karthika and Giulia

- how it felt to listen to archived oral history
- choice of Irene Elliot’s piece
- how their ideas developed and their creative pathways
- audience feedback (including from Irene herself!)
- the impact of their piece on them
- how they may use oral history in their future work