

T O T A H

MELISSA MCGILL

Campo Box (Santa Maria Nova)

February 21 - April 21, 2019

TOTAH presents Melissa McGill's *Campo Box (Santa Maria Nova)*, on view from February 21 - April 21, 2019. This is the first time the artist is showing with the gallery.

The Campi is a sculptural sound project that invokes the Venetian Campo: an open, irregularly shaped public square that is the historic heart of the neighborhood. Exploring the conversation between the visible and the invisible that defines public space, *The Campi* invokes daily life in five campi. The architectural footprints of five different campi are translated precisely into three dimensions, taking the form of a series of elegant black lacquered wooden boxes, reminiscent of music boxes.

The *Campo Box (Santa Maria Nova)* is based on an intimate and popular public square, with its red benches shaded by a tree dotted with twittering birds, adjacent to a small canal and a bridge, leading to the spectacular marble Santa Maria dei Miracle church. When closed, each box murmurs softly until the viewer lifts the lid to release a world of everyday ambient sounds recorded in that particular campo, capturing the imagination as it conjures up the rich environments of these centers of Venetian living architecture.

"After living in Venice and returning frequently over the years, I have witnessed the city's rapid transformation due to mass tourism. UNESCO recently expressed "extreme concern" about Venice's current conditions, which threaten its authenticity and integrity. *The Campi* experience is especially poignant, considering these rare and extraordinary public spaces are in real danger of disappearing."

Melissa McGill is an interdisciplinary artist who creates large-scale, site-specific art projects and works in a variety of media, including photography, painting, drawing, sculpture, sound, light and immersive installation. Her works connect viewers to overlooked histories and traditions, explores the conversation between the visible and the invisible, and heightens awareness of our surroundings. Based in New York, McGill lived in Venice from 1991-93, and has re-turned regularly for inspiration, research and artistic collaborations for over two decades. The Campi was first exhibited on May 8, 2017 coinciding with the opening week of La Biennale di Venezia - 57th International Art Exhibition. McGill has been exhibiting her artwork nationally and internationally since 1991, including solo exhibitions at Francesco Pantaleone Arte Contemporanea, Milan; White Cube, London; Power House, Memphis; Palazzo Capello, Venice; and CRG Gallery, New York.