

# EMPAC

A man in a dark jacket is seated at a table, focused on a laptop. The table is covered with several white breadboards, each populated with various electronic components such as integrated circuits, resistors, and jumper wires. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source coming from the laptop screen and the ambient light of the room.

## WITHIN 2

*Tarek Atoui*

**THU** / SEP 24, 7:00 PM

 Rensselaer

## WITHIN 2

### Tarek Atoui

As part of his ongoing research project *WITHIN 2*, **Tarek Atoui** will present his approach to performing sound in relation to anticipation, tactile sound, visual noise, gestures, and the multimodal nature of hearing.

This evening's performance and conversation is a platform for research, improvisation, and spatial composition that explores not only auditory perception among our diversity of listening abilities, but the social relations of public space, techniques of visual communication, and architectural tactility.

Atoui presented the project's first incarnation, *WITHIN*, as a series of performances and workshops during the Sharjah Biennial in 2011 and has continued to research principals of sonic architecture (in particular, the system of DeafSpace, developed by Hansel Bauman at Gallaudet, Washington) in the development of instrument-building techniques. *WITHIN* made no distinction between performer, musician, student, designer, researcher, professional, or amateur, and considered everybody active members capable of influencing the course of the piece and able to play different roles in it (spectator, educator, conductor, thinker, performer, etc.).

During his time at EMPAC, Atoui is working with Distinguished Research Professor of Music **Pauline Oliveros** and Rensselaer students from her New Instrumentation for Performance Arts Seminar in the design and fabrication of new instruments and interfaces for performance. In particular, the project will explore different methods for performing sound to a hearing-impaired audience, drawing on ideas of listening that go beyond the function of the ear alone.

As part of the project, Atoui is also working with Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, Mills College and UC Berkeley Center for New Media, and in Norway with the Bergen Assembly, a triennial of contemporary art, where he has been invited to be one of three artistic directors for the 2016 edition.

**Tarek Atoui** was born in Lebanon in 1980 and moved to Paris in 1998 where he studied contemporary and electronic music at the French National Conservatory of Reims. In 2008 he served as artistic director of STEIM (Studio for Electro Instrumental Music) in Amsterdam, a center for the research and development of new electronic musical instruments since 1969. With a background in Western electronic music as well as traditional Arabic forms, such as *tarab*, Atoui has pioneered his own brand of sound art that is at once highly technical and fully embodied. For every project, Atoui designs his own specialized computer tools, either through software or in complex circuits of hardware that require manic, gestural performance techniques. One significant example is the "Metastable Circuit," a computer interface consisting of four tables mounted with switches, buttons, and knobs capable of triggering and processing 250,000 sounds. Much of Atoui's work references social and political realities and presents music and new technologies as powerful tools of expression and identity. His pioneering youth workshop, *Empty Cans*, has been presented in France, Holland, Lebanon, Egypt, and in New York.

Atoui has presented works internationally including at the New Museum, New York (2009/2010); Sharjah Biennial 9 and 11, United Arab Emirates (2009/2013); Media City Seoul (2010); Haus der Kunst, Munich (2010); Performa 11, New York (2011); dOCUMENTA 13, Kassel (2012); Serpentine Gallery, London (2012); Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm (2012–2013); The MERCOSUL Biennial, Porto Alegre (2013); and the 8th Berlin Biennial (2014).

*WITHIN 2* is presented in collaboration with Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley.

# STAFF

Geoff Abbas / Director for Stage Technologies  
Eric Ameres / Senior Research Engineer  
Argeo Ascani / Curator, Music  
David Bebb / Senior Systems Administrator  
Peter Bellamy / Senior Systems Programmer  
Michael Bello / Video Engineer  
Victoria Brooks / Curator, Time-Based Visual Arts  
Eric Brucker / Lead Video Engineer  
Michele Cassaro / Guest Services Coordinator  
John Cook / Box Office Manager  
Roxanne De Hamel / Web Developer  
David DeLaRosa / Production Technician  
Zhenelle Falk / Artist Services Administrator  
William Fritz / Master Carpenter  
Kimberly Gardner / Manager, Administrative Operations  
Johannes Goebel / Director  
Ian Hamelin / Project Manager  
Katie Hammon / Administrative Specialist  
Ryan Jenkins / Senior Event Technician  
Shannon Johnson / Design Director  
Eileen Krywinski / Graphic Designer  
Carl Lewandowski / Production Technician  
Eric Chi-Yeh Lin / Lead Stage Technician  
Stephen McLaughlin / Senior Event Technician  
Josh Potter / Marketing and Communications Manager  
Alena Samoray / Event Technician  
Candice Sherman / Business Coordinator  
Avery Stempel / Front of House Manager  
Kim Strosahl / Production Coordinator  
Jeffrey Svatek / Audio Engineer  
Dan Swalec / Master Electrician  
Todd Vos / Lead Audio Engineer  
Michael Wells / Production Technician