

Biographies:

Robert Cruickshank

Robert Cruickshank is a Toronto-based multidisciplinary artist. His work in various media includes electronic, kinetic and robotic installations, sound art, electroacoustic music and lo-fi and stereo photography, and has been exhibited in Toronto and internationally. Much of his activity is associated with InterAccess Electronic Media Arts Centre in Toronto, where he has developed a number of hands-on workshops for artists using electronics. His work combines a knowledge of physical computing with an ongoing fascination with sound, light, and motion, and is as much informed by the kinetic art of the early 20th century as it is by contemporary new media art. Works such as *Spiral Incriber* (2005) combine microcontrollers with intricate electro-mechanical systems, reminiscent of early clockwork and mechanical devices, and reflect his interest in obsolete technologies. Many of these works are collaborative in nature, and he has been part of several long-term collaborative projects at InterAccess, such as *Space Probe* (1998), *SenseBus* (1999) and *Art Interface Device* (2001-present). He is also a member of InterAccess' *I/O media*, a collective of sound and video artists who explore real-time improvised performance. In addition to his skills in electronics and physical computing, Cruickshank brings an extensive background with broadcast technology to his work, and has been a sought-after advisor to artists seeking technical assistance over the last 18 years. He has sat on the InterAccess Board of Directors from 1996 to the present. More at robcruickshank.net.

Sarah Peebles is a Toronto-based American composer and performer. Her initial violin, composition, and theatre studies in Minneapolis, MN, were followed by a Bachelor of Music degree in composition from the University of Michigan School of Music in 1988, workshops in electronic media at InterAccess Electronic Media Arts Centre (Toronto, 1994) and studies in contemporary and traditional Japanese music at Toho Gakuen School of Music (1985), the Tokyo Association of Shinto Priests, the Okada Guild and others in the Tokyo metropolitan area over extended periods between 1985 and 1993. In Japan, she collaborated with various musicians, dancers and visual artists as a Japan Foundation Uchida Fellow (1992-'93) and performed gagaku (court music), kagura bayashi (Shinto dance-drama music) and other musics for Shinto functions throughout the Tokyo metropolitan region throughout her studies.

Peebles has composed for a variety of media, including small ensemble, electroacoustics, dance, installation and film. Her current music focuses on computer-assisted composition and improvised performance, and often explores alternative performance settings, such as museums, bamboo groves, temples and parks. In addition to solo work, collaborators have included Evan Parker, John Butcher, Jin Hi Kim, David Toop, Robert Cruickshank, Peter Chin, and René Highway, and extensive collaboration with "Smash and Teeny" (duo with Nilan Perera, electric guitar) and "Cinnamon Sphere" (Peebles, Perera, and calligrapher Chung Gong).

She has received commissions from New Adventures in Sound Art, Radio-Canada, Radio New Zealand and David Toop, and awards include Japan Foundation Uchida Fellowship, McKnight Fellowship through the American Composers Forum, ASCAP Awards to Young Composers and BMI Student Composers Award. Her music has been performed and broadcast widely throughout North America, Europe and Asia, and is available on Cycling '74, innova Recordings, Spool, Hornblower, and Post-Concrète, and is featured on various films and videos. Details at Studio Excelo "time-based art with a creamy filling", www.sarahpeebles.net.