

**Performance Prescriptions for  
Shortness of Breath and Other Ailments**

by

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## ABSTRACT

In *Performance Prescriptions for Shortness of Breath and Other Ailments*, I think through questions, materials, concerns, and desires that have engaged me throughout my tenure in the Electronic Arts department at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. I center my inquiry on a discussion of my MFA thesis exhibition, *Shortness of Breath and Other Ailments* (held at the Contemporary Artists Center at Woodside, in Troy, NY). This exhibition strives to generate spaces of intimacy and generative listening, and to embody endeavors to communicate across radical difference (human to non-human animal, human to machine, human to essence of musical diva), through handmade soft-speakers, multiplied voices, video, and performance. It also asks what art can bring to the world outside of exhibition walls, by presenting itself as a collection of prescriptions for micro-interventions into daily life. Both the exhibition and this thesis paper navigate the politics of sonic and visual display, and tensions between aesthetic and ethical drives.