

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum

For Immediate Release

THE ALDRICH CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM PRESENTS A TAKE HOME EXHIBITION BY LAURA ORTMAN

Ridgefield, CT (October 2023)—The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum is pleased to present *Transonic Homes*, the second edition of *Aldrich Box* in 2023, created by musician, composer, and artist Laura Ortman (White Mountain Apache).

Laura Ortman: *Transonic Homes* is now available to be borrowed by the public, free of charge, through March 3, 2024. Reservations can be made at thealdrich.org or in-person at the Museum's Front Desk.

Transonic Homes consists of a selection of three violins from Ortman's personal collection transformed into vessels. Titled *Violin: 'Eugene,' Violin 'Lark,' and Violine 'Karl,'* each bisected violin contains a unique book of Ortman's improvisational performances translated into scores by Alex Waterman. As Ortman explains: "*Violin 'Eugene'* contains 'Because Once You Enter My House It Becomes Our House' – my first live performance after COVID-19 at Socrates Sculpture Park in New York City in 2020. *Violin 'Lark'* contains 'TRANSONIC US <--> (SUBWAYS)' – a recording of me playing at Ende Tymes 13 Festival of Noise and Sonic Liberation in Brooklyn in 2022. *Violin 'Karl'* contains 'Someday We'll Be Together' – from my second solo album of the same name about the eventual meeting of hearts." The books have been personalized with notes and drawings by the artist. Ortman invites audiences to read, touch, and play her scores.



Photo: Gloria Perez

The *Aldrich Box* is a yearlong traveling exhibition series unbound to a physical space, inaugurated in 2021 during the pandemic. The first edition included commissions by five visual artists, whose contributions spanned objects scaled to be held with a focus on care, grief, intimacy, and healing through a diverse range of materials and methods. This year's edition of *Aldrich Box* focuses on performance – underscoring the cooperative and interdisciplinary aspects of making art. The three participating artists work at the intersection of dance, music, and the visual arts and will each stage a live performance at the Museum and contribute work to their own *Aldrich Box*. In conjunction with *Transonic Homes*, Ortman performed at the Museum on Saturday, September 23, 2023. Information and images from the performance can be viewed [here](#).

The first *Aldrich Box* of 2023 was *creating moments* by Ali Kenner Brodsky, and the edition being released later this fall will be created by Hilma's Ghost. Hilma's Ghost will host a feminist salon in the Museum on Saturday, December 2, 2023. Boxes by all three artists will be available for loan over the duration of the project's cycle.

Laura Ortman (White Mountain Apache) was born in 1973 and lives and works in New York. She creates across multiple platforms, including recorded albums, live performances, and filmic and artistic soundtracks. Ortman is versed in Apache violin, piano, electric guitar, keyboards, and amplified violin. She often sings through a megaphone and is a producer of capacious field recordings. Ortman has performed at the Whitney Museum of American Art, Guggenheim Museum, New York, Museum of Modern Art, New York, Musée d'Art Contemporain de Montréal, the 59th Venice Biennale, New Museum, imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival, Toronto Biennial, and Centre Pompidou, Paris, among many others.

Aldrich Box is organized by Director of Education Namulen Bayarsaihan and Chief Curator Amy Smith-Stewart.

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