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"Aural Sex"

@ Catherine Clark Gallery
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As physical space is so vital in contemporary art, it is no surprise that sound would be raw material for artists like Connie Walsh, Adriana Arenas, Nina Katchadourian, Reuben Lorch-Miller, Ed Osborn, Sheri Simons and Alison Ruttan. The sounds are courtesy of daily life. The exhibit, "Aural Sex," is suggestively titled but there is not sexuality in the installation but rather the catalyst for an intimate experience. In Sheri Simons' "Inert Raga," a padded room of bed sheets exudes a sleeping motif. Listening stations are installed at various heights on the wall, inviting visitors to strike irregular positions to sample ordinary breathing sounds of all sorts collected from past BBC news broadcasts. Raga is a melodic pattern found in Hindu music that gradually increases in velocity and complexity towards the arrival of the god. This musical pattern is parallel to one's daily journey towards full interactivity between responsibilities and private memories. But here, the artist isolates the daily sounds and they do not escalate towards any sense of arrival. The viewer is not in a familiar everyday space but in an art gallery. These ordinary sounds will instantly access the mind's stored personal information. This revelation in a public gallery space will immediately raise one's self-consciousness and this is the intimate experience, even if for a split second.