

The Sound of Peace?

Through interviews with female veterans from the British Army we aimed to explore ideas of *peacekeeping*, *female leadership* and the poetic notion, *What is the Sound of Peace?* through the use of immersive sound practice. The resulting works which emerged from a series of recorded interviews with a small sample of female veterans are now geo-located for *alpha testing* (using the Echoes.xyz app) in the form of two temporary *Sonic monuments* in public spaces which have a connection to military history. Please go to <https://artofnoises.com/contact> to give your feedback.

Location #1: Saatchi Gallery, Duke of York Sq. London

Here the work is interactive and underscored by the sound of waves and an ambient musical soundtrack, with the women's voices overlapping and fading into one another as the listener walks the designated route.

Location #2: Outside National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Rd. Chelsea, London.

A seated listening experience in which you hear the female veterans answering the question *What is the Sound of Peace?* The aesthetic is that of an analogue radio broadcast struggling to make itself heard over a sea of static.

Go to <https://explore.echoes.xyz/collections/FUJ3NCtdqY9mDCI5> or scan the QR code for link to the app and to download on Google Play or the iOS App store



We invite feedback from students at RCA and others, partly towards our evaluation report for Arts Council England and to assist us in moving the project forward later in the year, when we are planning further interviews in collaboration with feminist Critical Military Studies scholars, whilst also inviting male veterans to contribute their voices. The resulting expanded and fully developed sound pieces will be geo-located at a number of cities across the UK, accompanied by public engagement events.

The use of *augmented aur(e)ality* in this context places the voices of these women (and eventually men) in the public realm, to promote dialogue around *peace* and *peacekeeping* through the sound of people who pledged themselves to defend it. Whilst the lead artist is a life-long pacifist, it seems important to engage in this way through art and dialogue to expand and to challenge our own personal beliefs.

Lead Artist: **Joseph Young** (www.artofnoises.com)

Producers: **O'Neill Ross** (<https://oneillross.co.uk/>)

Mentor: **Prof Camille Baker**, Royal College of Art

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