

ZACH FEUER GALLERY

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Zach Feuer Gallery
530 W. 24th Street
New York, NY 10011
Tel: +1 212 989 7700
www.zachfeuer.com

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Opening reception: June 25, 2005

Momus and Mai Ueda *I'll Speak, You Sing*

Zach Feuer Gallery (LFL) is pleased to present "I'll Speak, You Sing" by the sound artist Momus in collaboration with Japanese performance artist Mai Ueda. For three weeks, Momus and Mai will improvise in real time for five hours a day in order to form a "space-producing" narrative. Their goal is to assist listeners and viewers in creating "mental soundscapes".

For the past few years, Momus has been interested in the way that sound produces space in the mind of the listener. In "I'll Speak, You Sing", Momus will fashion narrated landscapes for Mai's placement of song-objects. This will constitute the first collaboration between Momus and Mai. They have planned this project as an intimate three week experience of "Platonic Love": an unpredictable encounter in a space that they both share and create.

Momus relates the idea behind this exhibition to two projects. The first was his 2003 Summerisle record which created an imaginary Hebridean island related to the one in the cult horror film *The Wicker Man*. The second was a 2001 sound project by Vito Acconci titled *The Bristol Project*, which depicts a hypnotic spoken walkthrough of a futuristic world that contains many of Acconci's architectural projects. Momus regards this piece as establishing a new genre, the sonic walkthrough, which he hopes to expand upon during this exhibition.

This exhibition further extends the investigation of sound scopes begun by Momus in his 2000 exhibition, "Folktronia", at LFL Gallery. "Folktronia" featured an installation with hay bales, teepees, and a video-projected walkthrough of a forested Appalachian landscape accompanied by a soundtrack of birdcalls, donkey cries, and people's voices. Momus resided in the gallery throughout the exhibition in order to create folk tales and record visitors singing their interpretations of songs played in the teepees.

Born Nick Currie, Momus began his musical career in 1981 with the pop group, *The Happy Family*. Currie began recording under the name Momus in 1986 and has since released over 20 albums and EPs, which have been reviewed by *The New Yorker*, *Time Out*, and *Salon*, among others. He has toured extensively world-wide and has fostered multiple independent record labels. Momus has also worked on numerous side projects including a commissioned digital artwork for LA MoCA. Mai Ueda is a founder of the art movement, *Neen*, which had shows at *Sketch Gallery*, London and *Gislaine Hussenot*, Paris, among other international venues.