

**Title and brief description**    **OB-scene, a live audio/visual performance for photoplethysmograph and female body.**

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The balance between gesture and acoustic results is of great interest for electroacoustic artistic research and there are several artists who considered the body as source of music or sound working on the enhancement of the gesture in live performance through wearable instruments. In OB-scene the reverse is the case. Here the author wanted to experiment with a “sentic” approach. Emotional response is conceived as input to the machine, which becomes an active and autonomous participant in both the composition and the performance. This is an interdisciplinary new approach where methods borrowed from science, technology, bio-art and sound are combined in order to create novel methods of composition and performance.

#### Rigor

The performance consists of a live sonification of biological data gathered in real time through a customised vaginal probe (photoplethysmograph or VPP). The probe operates on the principle that vasocongestion occurs within the vagina. An infrared diode and a photodetector that detects the backscattered incident light indicate the vasocongestion. The signal AC (Alternating Capacitive Coupling) is used to generate live data for the performance. The interface between the medical probe and the software (Supercollider) is an Arduino Duemilanove. Data is processed and transformed, through original software coded in Supercollider, into sound and raw data projected in the exhibition space.

#### Significance

The author has been invited to present on this project at Transmediale (2016); FutureFest (London 2016); DRHA 2016: Digital Research in the Humanities and Arts (Brighton 2016); Metabody Forum (Brunel University 2016), an EU-funded program involving collaborators and advisors such as Donna Haraway, N. Katherine Hayles, Annie Sprinkle, and Ricardo Dal Farra. Additionally the single authored article presented here was written, at the invitation of the editor.

**Interdisciplinary:**                    Y

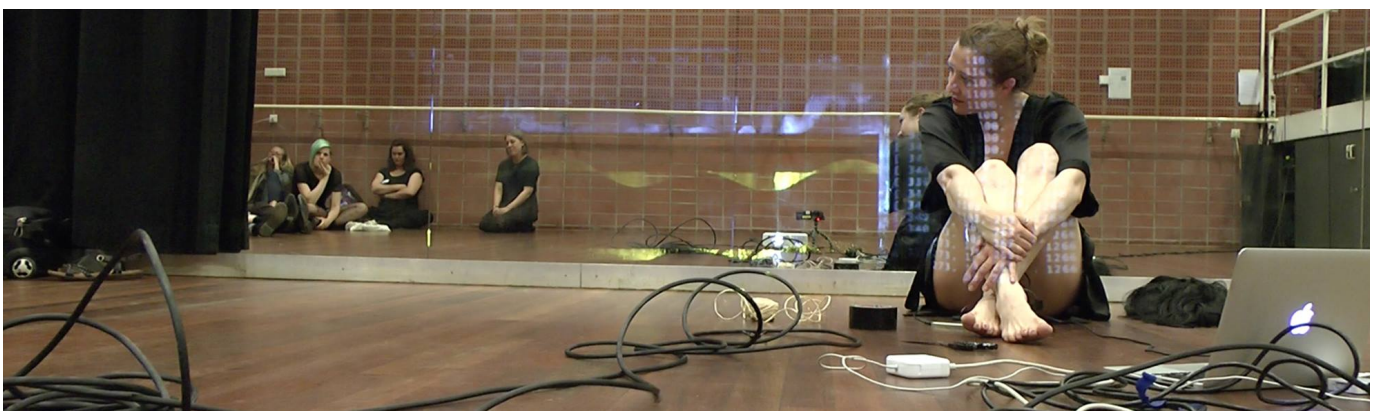
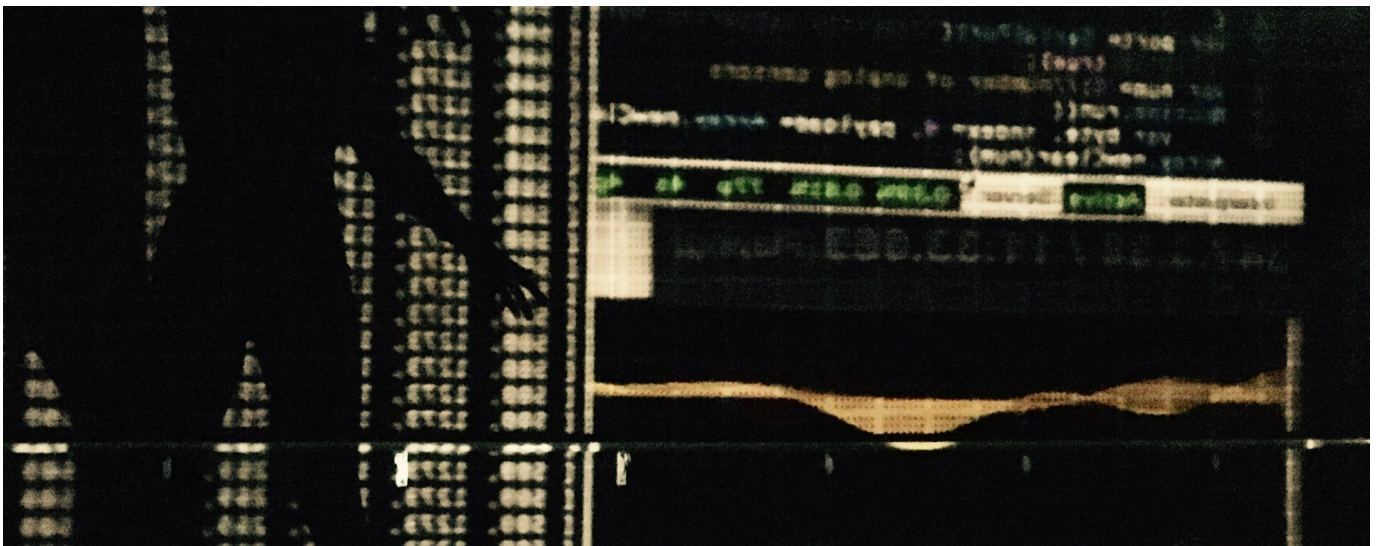
## OB-scene – Portfolio (documents, dissemination, impact)



Troisi, A., 2016. Performance/talk at TRANSMEDIALE (Berlin 3-7 February 2016) in the panel called "Transmediale /Panic Room / From C to X - an alphabet of intersectional feminism".



Troisi, A.. OB-scene, a live audio/visual performance for photoplethysmograph and female body. Brunel University London - Artaud Performance Centre. 7-9 April 2016. <http://people.brunel.ac.uk/dap/InternationalMetabodyForumProgram.pdf>



Troisi, A.. OB-scene, and audio/video performance for photoplethysmograph and female body. performance. CFP The Politics of Performance and Play. Feminist Matters, Institute for Philosophy, Leiden University, Leiden, the Netherlands. 7-8 July 2016 <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/binaries/content/assets/geesteswetenschappen/wijsbegeerte/programme-ppp-conference-2016-nvdheuvel.pdf>



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METABODY FORUM MEDIA

### IMF 2016 LONDON

We warmly invite you to our International Metabody Forum event taking place early next month at Artaud Performance Centre (Brunel University London).

- Tuesday 4 & Wednesday 6: technical rehearsals and constructions/ networked performance tests.
- Thursday 7: SYMPOSIUM – "Performance Architectures, Wearables and Gestures Of Participation" (15:00 – 21:00)
- Friday 8: Workshops / Exhibition-Performances (10:00 – 15:00 / evening performances 18:00 – 21:30)
- Saturday 9: Workshops / Exhibition-Performances (10:00 – 15:00 / evening performances 18:00 – 21:30)

There are many amazing artists and researchers involved traveling here from many places in the world – so we do hope to welcome our Metabody veterans as participant-observers as well.

people.brunel.ac.uk/dap/

people.brunel.ac.uk/dap/MetabodyForumResearch.html

is possible to add classical instruments (like a piano) in the stage, to watch a mixed and augmented sound between a wearable interactive garment that is played by the audience and the body movements and how the body sounds works with the classical instrument.

**María Kapsali (University of Leeds, UK) | Simon East (Curvor Ltd, UK)** Sonolope: producing soundscapes through movement (participatory installation). Sonolope is a participatory installation that will enable visitors to generate 3-dimensional soundscapes while moving in the space through the use of an app installed on their own smart-phones or on smart-watches they can borrow for the event)

**Larissa Ferreira (University of Brasilia, Brasil)** Corpo em Obra | Body in Process | Körperarbeit: performance installation. This performance is based on the relationship between body and image, the presence and memory, using coal as a symbol for the memory of the fire. To get coal it is necessary to burn twice, first wood is burning and then the fire is ceased to produce coal. Even when the fire is absent, the temperature of hot charcoal stay).

Larissa Ferreira on charcoal floor. Anna Troisi performing OB-Scene in the Artaud Centre's green room/reading room

**Anna Troisi (Bournemouth University, UK):** OB Scene. The work is conceived as a sound performance where a self made medical (vaginal) probe is used to transform female sexual arousal into sound, intruding the performer's body. Data are transformed live into sound through original software.


OB-Scene represents an explicit artistic act of remediation where the female body becomes a cyber

Troisi, A.. OB-scene, a live audio/visual performance for photoplethysmograph and female body. Brunel University London - Artaud Performance Centre. 7-9 April 2016.



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**Anna Troisi**  
Head of the Experimental Media Research Group, Bournemouth University

SUNDAY LOVE

Anna Troisi is a digital artist, programmer, performer, experimental electronic musician, composer, builder of instruments, and data fetishist. She has a background in computer science, music, computer music, neuroscience, and a PhD in nanotechnology.

Anna's research addresses how gender inequalities and gendered social differences are constructed. Her aim is to use digital/sound art to challenge stereotypes and provide positive alternatives. Her last performance *OB-scene* is part of an emerging movement of women and technology named Xenofeminism (XF). It introduces the idea of techno-alienation and focuses on the concept of other/diverse desires, new forms of desiring, experiencing something other. In Anna's work this takes the form of a feminism incorporating the fluid, the non-human, the diverse. In her performances the body is fused with the technology, rather than empowered or enhanced by technology itself, body and technology become a unique agent "enabling the audience to sense in public their own intimate emotions".

Her recent works *Ob-scene*, *Keen-skin* and *Talkitome* continue to be performed at festivals and venues in the UK and Europe. Anna's work has appeared at Transmediale (Berlin), Issue Project Room (New York City), Redroom (Baltimore), Brecht forum (New York City), EME Festival (Lisbon), Highwire gallery (Philadelphia), Columbia Redroom (New York City), Wising Arts Centre (Cambridge), Objectif Exhibitions Gallery (Flanders, Belgium), Institute for Philosophy (Leiden University), Nuova Consonanza Festival (Rome), Angelica International Contemporary Music Festival (Bologna) and many other venues and international festivals.

When she is not generating sounds from bodies and machines, Anna is Lecturer in Digital Media Design and Head of the Experimental Media Research Centre at Bournemouth University.

[www.annatrosi.org](http://www.annatrosi.org)



Troisi, A., 2016. Future of Love. In: FUTUREFEST by Nesta 16-17 September 2016 Tobacco Dock, London. [Talk/performance]

Ghislaine Boddington Retweeted



**L H Trevail** @lhtreavail · 19 Sep 2016  
Tactile tension & deliberate awkwardness by @anna\_troisi - Synthetic Emotions at #FutureFest16 ( red/cyan #3D )



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**Ghislaine Boddington** @GBoddington · 20 Sep 2016  
Recorded prior to @futurefest where we heard fascinating inputs by #digitalintimacy pioneers @paulsermon @TrudyBarber @anna\_troisi @billt +

**Leigh Alexander** @leighalexander  
Following FutureFest, our latest podcast is about the future of tech and intimacy, ft @GBoddington, @aboutthislater  
theguardian.com/technology/aud...

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**Ghislaine Boddington** @GBoddington · 19 Sep 2016  
"Synthetic Emotions" superbly explored+exposed by @LukeRobertMason @MarcoDonnarumma @TrudyBarber @anna\_troisi this w/ev@futurefest thx

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**Hai Media Group** @HaiMediaGroup · 19 Sep 2016  
Demonstrating her ideas with shoes + rope is @anna\_troisi on stage at #FutureFest16 for Future Love theme.



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**Luke Robert Mason** @LukeRobertMason · 17 Sep 2016  
Join us @futurefest (Sunday, 11:50am) for '#FutureLove - Synthetic Emotions' with @TrudyBarber @anna\_troisi @MarcoDonnarumma #FutureFest16

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**anna dumitriu** @AnnaDumitriu · 18 Sep 2016  
@anna\_troisi just tied up @billt @FUTURELOVE16 #FutureFest16 for the Synthetic Emotions panel debate



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**Quercia** @danielequercia · 18 Sep 2016  
#FutureFest16 debate on synthetic emotions. Well done to all! @anna\_troisi @trudybarber @LukeRobertMason @MarcoDonnarumma

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**Marco Donnarumma** @MarcoDonnarumma

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Cindy Gallop Retweeted



**bodydataspace** @bodydataspace · 18 Sep 2016  
All about #futurelove today #FutureFest16 follow @FUTURELOVE16 @GBoddington @LukeRobertMason @cindygallop @bbcbillt @djspooky @anna\_troisi

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**WomenShiftDigital** @WomenShiftDigi · 18 Sep 2016  
A lot of amazing female innovators today at #futurefest16 @GBoddington @cindygallop @anna\_troisi @TrudyBarber #SohYeongRoh @shuleacheang

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**Heidi Aishman** @HeidiAishman · 18 Sep 2016  
On my way into @futurefest to hear @anna\_troisi speak. Exiting times in London!

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**Sabina Bonnici** @sabinabonnici · 18 Sep 2016  
The future of love/sex. A debate with: @TrudyBarber @anna\_troisi @MarcoDonnarumma @LukeRobertMason #FutureFest16  
pic.twitter.com/xrLksbfp

2 retweets 3 likes

Troisi, A., 2016. Future of Love. In: FUTUREFEST by Nesta 16-17 September 2016 Tobacco Dock, London. [Talk/performance]

**Bill Thompson** @billt · 18 Sep 2016  
Well @anna\_troisi knows how to make an impression on her audience...  
@futurefest #FutureFest16

2 4

**Quercia** @danielequercia · 18 Sep 2016  
+1 RT @JazzLeaders: really interesting. Thanks for sharing with us @anna\_troisi (at @futurefest #FutureFest16)

1 5 4

**Bill Thompson** @billt · 18 Sep 2016  
waiting excitedly for @anna\_troisi at @futurefest #FutureFest16 - at Tobacco Dock

CsJCC at BU and 1 other Retweeted  
**Giuseppe Sollazzo** @puntofisso · 18 Sep 2016  
Awesome storytelling by @anna\_troisi while linking two audience members by tying them up  
#FutureFest16

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Bill Thompson and 1 other Retweeted  
**JiaXuan Hon** @idanceinbetween · 18 Sep 2016  
the future of synthetic emotions @anna\_troisi 😊 #futurefest16

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**Giuseppe Sollazzo** @puntofisso · 18 Sep 2016  
Fascinating session about synthetic emotions with @anna\_troisi @trudybarber @LukeRobertMason @MarcoDonnarumma  
#FutureFest16

1 4 5

Troisi, A., 2016. Future of Love. In: FUTUREFEST by Nesta 16-17 September 2016 Tobacco Dock, London. [Talk/performance]