



# Spike Island

ERIC BAUDELAIRE AND  
ALVIN CURRAN  
*WHEN THERE IS NO MORE MUSIC  
TO WRITE*

28 MAY TO 18 SEPTEMBER 2022

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An exhibition by artist and filmmaker Eric Baudelaire and avant-garde composer Alvin Curran that traces a musical revolution taking place at a time of great political upheaval during the 1960s and 70s. Curated in collaboration with music historian Maxime Guitton, the show includes three new films by Baudelaire, two large-scale 'sound sculptures' by Curran, and an archive display assembled by Guitton that recount Curran's life and work in Rome, where he settled in 1964.

Curran is a key figure in the history of experimental music. He has expanded the notion of what an instrument can be to include objects from nature and everyday life. Shortly after he moved to Rome, Curran met the Italian electronic music composer Franco Evangelisti, who told him: "Don't you know that there's no more music to write?" Over the years this phrase became key to Curran's musical experimentation, leading him to embrace electro-acoustic improvisation as a way forward.

Baudelaire's films combine Curran's first-person accounts of his life with details of the radical political mobilisations occurring in Italy at the time, which reached a boiling point with the kidnapping and murder of politician Aldo Moro by the Red Brigades in 1978. Situating Curran's work in the context of an artistic avant-garde motivated by the creative possibilities of collaboration and chance, they echo the music he created with found sounds by incorporating

a range of source material, from Super 8 film to found footage from various archives.

The films are presented alongside two sound sculptures by Curran: a self-playing piano suspended from the ceiling, and a collaborative 'instrumentarium' of found objects. Rare archive material assembled by Guitton also sheds light on how Curran's expansive experimental practice developed across nearly three decades.

Image: Eric Baudelaire, *When There Is No More Music to Write*, (2022) Film still.

*When There Is No More Music to Write* is presented in partnership with CRAC Occitanie, Le Centre Régional D'art Contemporain Occitanie / Pyrénées-Méditerranée and Bergen Kunsthall, and is generously supported by Fluxus Art Projects. In-kind support provided by Yamaha Music Europe GMBH (UK) (Yamaha) and Mickleburgh Ltd.

Large print guides are available in the gallery and to download at [spikeisland.org.uk](http://spikeisland.org.uk)

Spike Island is an international centre for the development of contemporary art, located in Bristol's harbour area.

Admission to the gallery is free.  
Visit our website to explore upcoming events and activities.

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