



ARTPRIZE
LABS

***Whisper* by Emily Kennerk**

ArtPrize 2015: Time-Based Public Vote Winner

Whisper is an 80-foot-long table set with dishes and glasses, paired with a standing microphone. Participants activate the sculpture by softly whispering into the microphone, sending silent vibrations into the table top, causing the dishes to chatter, clink, and inch off of the table to shatter on the ground. Artist Emily Kennerk describes it as an exploration of how sound can take shape as a three-dimensional form.

Sound is produced when something vibrates. A vibration pushes the air, creating a sound wave that we can hear, see and feel. The speed of the vibration determines the pitch of the sound wave. We hear low pitch sounds from big, slow wavelengths, and high pitch sounds come from short, fast wavelengths. When artists add sound to their work, they are also adding the dimension of time.

Creative Challenge: Sound Shapes

Experimentation has been the starting point for the invention of many instruments and musical styles.

- Start by sticking two foam shapes to the cardboard rectangle, poke tacks through the shapes, and stretch a rubber band around the two tacks.
- You have just made an instrument! How do you play it?
- How can you create multiple different sounds by adding more tacks? What shapes can you draw with the rubber band, and what do the shapes sound like?
- Add another rubber band shape to the board.
- Experiment with the length and tension of the rubber bands. When you pluck the band can you see the speed of the vibration? How does it relate to the sound?
- Name your sound shapes instrument, bring it home and challenge a friend to write a song on it. Invent a way of writing the music down to play the song again.

Bring this card home with you. COLLECT ALL 12 cards by completing ArtPrize 10 Creative Challenges!

STEAM education is an approach to learning that blends science, technology, engineering, art, and math to engage students in problem solving and exposes them to a variety of practical skills and career paths.

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