



GEMINI G.E.L. AT JONI MOISANT WEYL

Keith Sonnier

Born:

Mamou, Louisiana, 1941

Keith Sonnier studied art and anthropology at the University of Southwestern Louisiana (B.F.A., 1963) and then spent a period of time painting in Paris. Upon his return to the United States, he attended Rutgers University (M.F.A., 1966) and then moved to New York.

Sonnier has investigated the nature of systems of communications from pictographs to electronics. His interest in anthropology, the traditions of primitive cultures and how they function, has led him to explore the ritualistic uses of language as well as its mythic potential. Concern with sensations (sound, touch and so forth) has led him to execute pieces in a broad range of materials, among them metal, fabric, including silk and cheesecloth, paper, and rubber, utilizing both wall and floor planes to explore his ideas for sculpture. Since the late 1960s he has worked in neon and video as well. Sonnier's investigations in the process of communication have also led him to structure environments by means of installation pieces dominated by sound and light.

In 1981 Sonnier worked in Ahmedbad, India, completing two groups of pieces: the Rangoli series of painted aluminum works and the Dom-Basor series, constructed of painted bamboo. Sonnier's work at Gemini has included lithographs, screenprints, and works in hand-cast paper, as well as two versions of a stereo LP record, "Air to Air," documenting a connection supplied by WATS telephone lines – Side A, from New York to Los Angeles, and Side B, from Los Angeles to New York.

Sonnier received a Guggenheim Foundation fellowship in 1974. His exhibitions include those organized by Douglass College, New Brunswick, New Jersey (1966); Stedelijk van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven (1970); Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre George Pomidou, Paris (1979); Portland Center for the Visual Arts (1981); and P.S. 1, Long Island City, New York (1983).

Selected Solo Exhibitions:

- 1966 Douglas College, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, Keith Sonnier.
- 1968 Galerie Rolf Ricke, Cologne, Keith Sonnier, 9.25-10.16.
- 1970 Leo Castelli Gallery, New York, March 7-28.
Ace Gallery, Los Angeles, Keith Sonnier Live Video, July-Aug.
Stedelijk van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, Keith Sonnier, 9.4-10.4(cat.)
Galerie Rolf Ricke, Cologne, Keith Sonnier. Videotapes, 10.13-11.9
- 1971 Galerie Rolf Ricke, Cologne, 4.30-5.26(cat.)
Museum of Modern Art, New York, Projects: Keith Sonnier, 5.5-8.2.
- 1972 Leo Castelli Gallery, New York, Keith Sonnier Live and Channel Video, Stereo Projection, 2.26-3.18.
- 1973 Ace Gallery, Venice, CA, Keith Sonnier, (Sound Performance), 10.20. Kitchen, New York,
Keith Sonnier: Send/Receive/Send, 11.24-30 (collab. w/ Mabou Mines).
- 1974 Leo Castelli Gallery, New York, Keith Sonnier: Radio Mix, 3.9-30. Sender/Creigh Gallery,
Coronado, CA and Ace Gallery, Los Angeles, Keith Sonnier: Ba-O-Ba 1969-1974/Neon and Glass,
11.22-12.14.
- 1975 Leo Castelli Gallery, New York, and Ace Gallery, Los Angeles, Keith Sonnier in Collaboration
with Leo Castelli and Doug Christmas presents ÔAir to AirÓ, 2.8-22. Galerie Rolf Ricke,
Cologne, Keith Sonnier, 11.6-26.



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- 1976 Leo Castelli Gallery, New York, Keith Sonnier, 2.8-2.22 Sender/Creigh Gallery, Coronado, CA, ABACA Code
Hand Cast Paper Sculpture and other Work 1969-76, 10.7-29
- 1977 Ace Gallery, Los Angeles, Keith Sonnier. Center for New Art Activity, New York, Send/Receive Satellite Network, New York City - San Francisco Bay, 9.10 & 11.
- 1978 Leo Castelli Gallery, New York, Black Ground Series Drawings, 4.1-15.
Castelli Graphics, New York, Keith Sonnier: Lithographs, 4.8-29.
Galerie Rolf Ricke, Cologne, 4.28-6.3.
Rosamund Felsen Gallery, Los Angeles, Keith Sonnier: Simultaneous Regional Editions, 7.8-8.5.
The Institute for Art & Urban Resources, Inc., The Clocktower, New York, Keith Sonnier: Porte-Voix Audio Installation, 11.15-12.9.
- 1979 Museum Haus Lange, Krefeld, Keith Sonnier: BA-O-BA Sel Series, 4.8-5.20 (Cat.)
Leo Castelli Gallery, New York, Keith Sonnier: Expanded SEL Series, 5.26-6.16.
Galerie Michele Lachowsky, Brussels, AM/FM Radio Installation, Oct.
Eric Fabre Gallery, Paris, Keith Sonnier: Porte Voix, Oct.
Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre George Pompidou, Paris, Keith Sonnier: Porte Vue, Feb.
- 1980 Tony Shafrazi Gallery, New York, Keith Sonnier: Pictograms, 5.27-7.3.
Galerie France Morin, Montreal, Keith Sonnier 10.3-11.1.
- 1981 Galerie Rolf Ricke, Cologne, Keith Sonnier: Runic Series 1980, 1.23-3.7 (cat.)
David Bellman, Toronto, Keith Sonnier: Dom Basor Series, India 1981, 11.21- 12.19.
Michelle Lachowsky Gallery, Antwerp, Keith Sonnier, Nov.
Portland Center for the Visual Arts, Portland, Keith Sonnier, 12.4-1.17.
- 1982 Rosamund Felsen Gallery, Los Angeles, Keith Sonnier: Rangoli: Aluminum works made in India 1981, 1.30-2.27.
Galerie Eric Fabre, Paris, Keith Sonnier, Feb.- Mar.
Leo Castelli Gallery, New York, Keith Sonnier, 5.1-5.22.
- 1983 Institute for Art & Urban Resources, Long Island City, P.S.1 (Project Studios One): Keith Sonnier, 4.10-6.5 (cat.)
- 1984 Carol Taylor Art, Dallas, Keith Sonnier, 2.7-3.3.
Galerie Rolf Ricke, Cologne, Keith Sonnier: Ubud Series, Dom Basor, Mata Hari, 3.16-4.25
Galerie Schema, Florence, Keith Sonnier: Florentine Neon, 12-1.
The Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, 6.8-7.8. (cat.), travels to: Sakura Gallery, Nagoya, 7.16-8.4. (cat.);
Amano Gallery, Osaka, 8.20-9.22.
Armory Gallery, Virginia Polytech Institute, 9.18-10.12.
Leo Castelli Gallery, New York, 11.17-12.15.
- 1985 Galleria Schema, Florence, Keith Sonnier: Ubud Series, Jan.
Rosamund Felsen Gallery, Los Angeles, Keith Sonnier: Tokobashira Series, 2.23-3.23.
- 1985 Susanne Hilberry Gallery, Birmingham, MI, Keith Sonnier: Sculptures and Drawings, 3.23-4.27.
Leo Castelli Gallery, New York, Keith Sonnier: 7 New Works, 9.28-10.19.
- 1986 Galerie Montenay Delsol, Paris, Keith Sonnier: Works 1969-1974, 1.30-2.25.
Tilden Foley Gallery, New Orleans, Keith Sonnier, 2.22-3.19.
- 1987 Galerie Nature Morte, New York, Keith Sonnier: Works from the 60's, March.
Centre d'Art Contemporain du Domaine de Kerguehennec, Rennes, Keith Sonnier, 6.6-8.30. (cat.)
Alexandria Museum of Art, Alexandria, LA, Keith Sonnier: A Ten Year Retrospective 1977-87, 10.9-11.25.



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- 1987 (with Linda Benglis; cat.) Galerie Rolf Ricke, Cologne, Keith Sonnier: New Sculptures, 11.12-12.19.
Annina Nosei Gallery, New York, Keith Sonnier: New Work, 11.15-12.3.
- 1988 The Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, VA, Keith Sonnier: Neon Sculpture, 10.6-12.4 (cat.)
- 1989 Leo Castelli Gallery, New York, Keith Sonnier: New Work, 1.7-1.28.
Barbara Gladstone, New York, Keith Sonnier: Early Work, 1.7-1.28.
Galerie Montenay, Paris, Keith Sonnier, 2.16-3.11.
Galerie Ryzsard Varisella, Frankfurt, Keith Sonnier: Frankfurt Dyads, Apr.-June.
Galleria Schema, Florence, Keith Sonnier: Neon Sculptures and Drawings, 5-6.
Studio Claudio Guenzani, Milan, Keith Sonnier: New Work, June-Sept. Hirschhorn Museum,
National Gallery, Washington, DC, Keith Sonnier: Neon, 8.2-10.29 (cat.)
Tilden Foley Gallery, New Orleans, Keith Sonnier, 9.23-10.31.
Cranbrook Academy, Bloomfield Hills, MI, Keith Sonnier: Neon, (traveled from Hirschhorn),
11.14-12.31.
Galerie Jürgens Becker, Hamburg, Keith Sonnier: Expanded File Series 1969- 1989, 11.11-1.20.90 (cat.)
Hyde Gallery, Dublin, Keith Sonnier, Nov.-Dec. (cat.)
- 1990 Halle Sud, Geneva, Keith Sonnier, 1.26-3.3. (cat.)
Galerie Faust, Geneva, Keith Sonnier, 1.26-3.3.
Blum Helman Gallery, Los Angeles, Keith Sonnier: Antenna Series, 3.1-4.1.
Städtisches Museum Abteiler Monchengladbach, Keith Sonnier: Expanded File Series: 1969-1989,
(traveled from Jürgens Becker) 25.3-13.4(cat.)
Galleria Il Ponte, Rome, Keith Sonnier, 4.26 Ð May (cat.)
Harkus Gallery, Boston, Keith Sonnier, 5.5-6.9.
California State University Art Museum, Long Beach, Centric 41: Keith Sonnier, 10.2-12.16.(cat.)
Liverpool Gallery, Brussels, Keith Sonnier: The Experience of Space, 11.16- 12.22 (cat.)
- 1991 Galerie Schroeder, Monchengladbach, Keith Sonnier, 3.10-4.20 (cat.)
Galerie Rolf Ricke, Cologne, Keith Sonnier 11.14-12.
- 1992 Musée-Château d'Annecy, Annecy, Keith Sonnier, 1.18-3.16.
Editions Ilene Kurtz, New York, Keith Sonnier, 3.27-4.30.
Leo Castelli Gallery, New York, Keith Sonnier, 4.4-4.25.
65 Thomson, New York, Keith Sonnier, 4.4-4.25.
Leo Castelli Graphics, New York, New York, Keith Sonnier, 4.4-5.9.
Person's Weekend Museum, Tokyo, Keith Sonnier, 4.16-6.28.
Galerie Carola Mosch, Berlin, Keith Sonnier, 5.19.
- 1992 Gallery Interform, Osaka, Keith Sonnier, 1.7.
Gallery Camino Real, Boca Raton, Keith Sonnier, 11.12-12.4.
- 1993 Galerie Lallouz & Watterson, Montreal, Keith Sonnier. Oeuvres Choisies 1989-92.Selection of
Works, 3.20-4.17.
Galerie Rolf Ricke, Cologne, Keith Sonnier:Works on Paper, 6.4-8.7.
Sprengel Museum, Hannover, Keith Sonnier. Werke/Works, 6.6-8.1. (Cat.)Travelled to:
Kunsthalle Nurnberg, Nurnberg, 2.10-4.3.1994;
Kunstverein St. Gallen Kunstmuseum, St. Gallen, Switzerland. 6.4- 8.28.1994.
- 1994 Betsy Senior Gallery, New York, Keith Sonnier:Multiples and Wall Reliefs, 4.28-6.30.
The Drawing Center, New York, Nightlight '94. Readings organized by Linda Yablonsky.
Installation by Keith Sonnier. 5.11.
- 1995 Marguerite Oestreicher Fine Arts, New Orleans, LA, Drawings: 30 Years - 1964-1994, 5.6-5.31.
- 1996 Galerie Malka Lallouz, Los Angeles, CA, Cat Doucet Series, 7.18- 8.



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- 1996 University Art Gallery, Staller Center for the Arts, State University of New York at Stony Brook, Oriental - Occidental, 11.8-12.14 (Cat.)
- 1997 Leo Castelli Gallery, New York, Alternating Currents, 3.22-4.26
Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery, New York, Channel Mix, 3.27-4.26
- 1999 Marlborough Gallery, New York, Keith Sonnier: Sculpture 1966-1998 (Cat.) 1.14-2.13
Aktionsforum Praterinsel, Munich, Germany, Keith Sonnier: New Neon (Cat.) 3.26-5.24.
Kulturmanagement Hüsler, Munich, Germany, Keith Sonnier: The Blatt Series. 3.26-5.24
Galerie Evelyne Canus, Colle sur Loup, France, Keith Sonnier Ba-O-Ba 1977; Blatt 1999. 7.9-9.4
Kunsthau Bregenz, Bregenz, Austria, Keith Sonnier: Environmental Works 1968-1999(Cat.)
10.2-11.28
- 2000 Marlborough Gallery, New York, Keith Sonnier: New Work 2000 (Cat) 4.29- 6.3
Zumtobel Staff Lichtzentrum, Zurich, Keith Sonnier: La Lumi`ere, 11.22-12.22
- 2001 Overbeck Gesellschaft LYbeck, Germany, Keith Sonnier:Zeichnungen und Neonarbeiten, 3.25-5.
- 2002 Rathaus Galerie, Munich, Germany, Keith Sonnier:Licht und Architektur Oeffentliche
Auftragsarbeiten 1990-1991.
Galerie JYrgen Becker, Hamburg, Germany, Sel Werk(Cat.)
Neue National Galerie, Berlin, Ba-O-Ba Berlin. (Cat.)
- 2003 Ace Gallery, Los Angeles
Ace Gallery, New York, Keith Sonnier: Neon and Glass 1967-69; Live Video 1970; Live Sound 1973.
Hüsler Contemporary, Munich, Germany, Ba-O-Ba, Zeichnungen/Objekte
Carl Solway Gallery, Cincinnati, Keith Sonnier
Sonnabend Gallery, New York, New Installation of the Sel Series 1978/2003.
Heriard-Cimino Gallery, New Orleans, Keith Sonnier
- 2004 Hüsler Contemporary, Munich, Germany, Keith Sonnier - SEL Neue Lichtobjekte und
Zeichnungen. 7.2-8.31