

Ecstatic Material

Keith Harrison

Ecstatic Material is an Outlands commission touring to 7 UK venues in February 2019, and Bergen, Norway in March 2020.

Development and Process:

The first developmental drawings for what became **Ecstatic Material** were made in 2015 in the form of static drawings, made from images of static on the television, an early indication of the possibilities of sound becoming physical. This led to a further and sustained period of research and experimentation, once Ecstatic Material had been commissioned, led by a mutual curiosity between Keith Harrison and Beatrice Dillon around the potential of shared terminologies, such as chroma, elasticity, interferences and reactions, to bend sound and material. After early experiments with a children's plastic bubble toy, playdough, and its constituent elements, became the material of choice. This process began with preliminary schematic drawings to explore ways to pump playdough through the soundsystem, and a reinterpretation of the early static drawings onto lino to create static lino backdrops for the **Ecstatic Material** performance. Material tests were done in the studio using different composed sounds to test the capacity of the constituent elements of playdough to move in response, if the sound moved the material they then became part of the composition for the performance. The final stage of development for **Ecstatic Material** involved experimenting and testing various backdrops and stack arrangements in the gallery space at Karst, in December 2018 and January 2019, prior to the first performance on 7th February 2019.