



Art League Houston  
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## For Immediate Release

*FIGHT SONG*  
Steve Parker

Exhibition Dates: December 16, 2022 – February 11, 2023  
Opening Reception: 6 – 8 PM Friday, December 16, 2022  
Artist Talks: 2 - 4 PM Saturday, December 17, 2022  
Main Gallery



Steve Parker, *Sonic Meditation for Marching Band 1*, photograph. Image courtesy of the Artist

December 6, 2022. Houston, TX - Art League Houston (ALH) is proud to present *FIGHT SONG*, an exhibition by Austin-based artist Steve Parker. *FIGHT SONG* is an installation and performance featuring a National College Athletic Association (NCAA) marching band performing sonic meditations. **The project examines themes of healing, injury, and labor in football, drawing from legacies of sonic therapy**, including 12th c. abbess Hildegard von Bingen's liturgical songs, Pauline Oliveros' *Deep Listening* practice, Anthony Braxton's radical marching bands, and Guadalupe Maravilla's *Disease Thrower* sculptures.

**FIGHT SONG materializes in two forms: as a sculptural installation and as a halftime-style performance.** The installation works like an immersive musical composition featuring an ecosystem of automated sonic sculptures made from salvaged marching band instruments. As audiences come into the gallery, they enter a



constellation of invented instruments suspended from above and around them – like an exploded technical drawing of a marching band.

Parallel with the installation, the project includes a series of video works featuring a NCAA marching band performing sonic healing meditations in public spaces. The band, marching in full regalia, performs routines that activate the exhibition space with elements of continuous, live performance.

- **Artist will discuss the complex intersections of music, sport, art, sonic warfare, and healing at public talk on Saturday, 12/17**
- **Interactive installation for sustained visitor engagement**

This project is generously supported by the Music Academy of the West Alumni Enterprise Award and the Mid America Arts Alliance.

## **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

**Steve Parker** is an artist who works with salvaged musical instruments, amateur choirs, marching bands, urban bat colonies, flocks of grackles, and pedicab fleets to investigate systems of control, interspecies behavior, and forgotten histories. His projects include elaborate civic rituals for humans, animals, and machines; listening sculptures modeled after obsolete surveillance tools; and cathartic transportation symphonies for operators of cars, pedicabs, and bicycles. He is the recipient of the Rome Prize, a Fulbright, and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, among others.

Parker has exhibited and performed at institutions, public spaces, and festivals internationally including the American Academy in Rome (Italy), Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art (Arkansas), Gwangju Media Art Festival (Korea), the Guggenheim Museum (NY), the Lincoln Center Festival (NY), Los Angeles Philharmonic inSIGHT (LA), the Lucerne Festival (Switzerland), MASS MoCA (Massachusetts), SXSW, and Tanglewood.

Parker is curator of SoundSpace at the Blanton Museum of Art, Executive Director of Collide Arts, and a faculty member at UTSA. He holds degrees in Math and Music from Oberlin College, Rice University, and UT Austin.

<https://steve-parker.net/>

Instagram: @parkerstevensounds

For more information, visit [www.artleaguehouston.org](http://www.artleaguehouston.org), or contact Bridget Bray, Interim Director of Exhibitions and Curatorial Projects, at [bridget@artleaguehouston.org](mailto:bridget@artleaguehouston.org) or 713-523-9530.





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