

PROJECTS

The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019
Tel. 956-6100

PROJECTS: LAURIE ANDERSON



Laurie Anderson is an artist who electronically manipulates sound to create music with visual and aural dimensions. On view in The Museum of Modern Art's PROJECTS gallery September 15 to October 29, the PROJECTS: LAURIE ANDERSON installation, called the Handphone Table, consists of a simple five-foot-long wooden table with a concealed sound system heard only by becoming actively involved with the work. This exhibition is directed by Barbara London, Curatorial Assistant.

The viewer hears Laurie Anderson's Handphone Table only while seated, elbows making contact with particular points of the table top and hands covering the ears. The viewer's arms serve as conductors for the otherwise inaudible sound, which consists of vocal tones at one end of the table and instrumental music at the other. As a self-contained structure made with untraditional materials, the work is representative of contemporary interest in perceptual alternatives in art.

While she frequently deals allegorically with her own past, much of Laurie Anderson's work uses illusion in the form of elusive sound and fleeting imagery. This is often achieved by combination of performed or audiotaped music with projected slides.

Laurie Anderson was born in 1947, and received her B.A. and M.F.A. from Barnard College and Columbia University. Studying art history and sculpture before turning to photography, film, performance, and sound-oriented art, her work has been shown in many international biennial exhibitions. She is also known for her music performances, often done with a large band. Recently, Laurie Anderson produced Sound Texts, a record, with 1750 Arch Record Studio in California, and she has also made two books, October 1972 and Notebook, published last year by the Collation Center.

This exhibition is made possible through the generous support of the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, D.C. The Museum's exhibition program is partially funded through the New York State Council on the Arts.

August 1978

For further information, please contact Luisa Kreisberg, Director of Public Information (212) 956-2648, or Bruce Wolmer, Assistant (212) 956-7295, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019.
