

Media Release January 2008

**STAALPLAAT SOUNDSYSTEM: YOKOMONO**  
alt.gallery, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

**Opening: 28 February, 6-8pm**  
**Exhibition: 29 February – 5 April 2008**

“Within the current mood of worshipping the latest technology in media art, Staalplaat Soundsystem provides a breath of fresh air, reminding us of the 100-year tradition of noise-making machines, in which “mad” inventors and artists operating in the margins of the art world meet” Anton Nikkila, Avanto Festival, Helsinki

alt.gallery is pleased to announce its fourth exhibition **Staalplaat Soundsystem: Yokomono** in collaboration with AV Festival 08: Broadcast.

Staalplaat Soundsystem was initiated by Geert-Jan Hobijn, founder of the Staalplaat record label and Carsten Stabenow founder of the Garage media art festival. They have been described as an ‘eclectic mix of techno culture and sound art installation’ and their work has been presented internationally at major festivals including Sonar (Barcelona), Transmediale (Berlin), Mutek (Montreal) and Ars Electronica (Linz).

They will be presenting *Yokomono* their award winning sound art installation, for the first time in the UK. *Yokomono* consists of four toy car-shaped record players and a corresponding set of FM radios. The cars, known as ‘vinyl killers’, have been customized with wireless FM transmitters. As they spin around the vinyl, they transmit their signal to over sixty FM radios tuned to a special *Yokomono* frequency.

As each vinyl killer plays its own record it opens up a separate audio stream. By arranging the radios in groups it becomes possible to explore the architectural dimensions of the gallery space. Some radios are also mounted on a miniature train, literally driving through the interfering frequencies. Musical harmony isn’t guaranteed as the vinyl killers run on batteries which will run down but not necessarily at the same rate.

The installation is inspired by driving in a car close to the Funkturm (Radio and TV Tower) in Berlin. Passing quickly in and out of different radio programmes and experiencing the interference between competing radio signals. It is a unique and adventurous work, creating an unstable sonic space using radio technology in a playful way. In 2006 Yokomono received a Prix Ars Electronica Honorary Mention Digital Music.

Produced by AV Festival 08: Broadcast in collaboration with alt.gallery.

Part of AV Festival 08: Broadcast  
International festival of electronic arts featuring visual art, music and moving image.  
28 February - 8 March 2008  
Newcastle, Gateshead, Middlesbrough, Sunderland  
[www.avfestival.co.uk](http://www.avfestival.co.uk)

**For further press information and images please contact Rebecca Shatwell at [rebecca@altgallery.org](mailto:rebecca@altgallery.org) / 07789 305841. Interviews with Staalplaat Soundsystem can be arranged.**

### Notes to Editors:

**alt.gallery** is a new gallery in Newcastle upon Tyne presenting international work by artists working at the intersection of visual art, music and sound. It is curated by Rebecca Shatwell and based within alt.vinyl record shop. The gallery website is [www.altgallery.org](http://www.altgallery.org)

**The Wire magazine**, is the media sponsor for alt.gallery, for more information see [www.thewire.co.uk](http://www.thewire.co.uk)

**Staalplaat Soundsystem**, for more information see: [www.staalplaat.org](http://www.staalplaat.org)

**AV Festival 08: Broadcast.** AV Festival is a festival of electronic arts, and features visual art, music and moving image. It takes place across Newcastle, Gateshead, Sunderland and Middlesbrough from 28 February - 8 March 2008. The theme of the festival is broadcast. In October 2007 the BBC begins to switch off analogue television signals, paving the way for television to become entirely digital. At the same time the internet and mobile networks have created opportunities for us to 'broadcast ourselves' in entirely new ways. As the landscape of broadcasting changes irrevocably, AV Festival 08 will be a catalyst for debate about the future of broadcasting, and an event to celebrate a century of on-air and online transmission. For more information about AV Festival 08 go to [www.avfestival.co.uk](http://www.avfestival.co.uk) or contact: [info@avfestival.co.uk](mailto:info@avfestival.co.uk). For AV Festival 08 press enquiries please contact: Nicky Harrison, White Hot Communications, Tel: 0191 280 8020 / 07824 390826, Email: [nicky@whitehotcomms.co.uk](mailto:nicky@whitehotcomms.co.uk)

**alt.vinyl** is a music business based in central Newcastle upon Tyne, comprising of record store, label, online music retail and gig promotion activities. Since its inception it has established a wide reputation for its support of and work with the regional music scene. It stocks a broad range of genres from blues and jazz through punk, hip hop and dubstep to free folk, psychedelia and new weird america. The alt.vinyl label has released limited run lathe eps by luminaries of the global noise and improv underground, notably astral social club, volcano the bear, prurient, jazzfinger, united light and tight meat duo with more releases from the likes of hive mind, robedoor, graveyards, demons and zoviet\*france. For more information see the alt.vinyl website at [www.altvinyl.com](http://www.altvinyl.com) or email [info@altvinyl.com](mailto:info@altvinyl.com)

### Listings Information:

Staalplaat Soundsystem: *Yokomono*  
29 February – 5 April 2008

alt.gallery (entry via alt.vinyl) 61/62 Thornton Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4AW.  
Tel +44 (0) 191 222 1213 / [mail@altgallery.org](mailto:mail@altgallery.org)  
[www.altgallery.org](http://www.altgallery.org)  
Opening hours: Monday – Saturday 10am – 6pm / Thursday 10am – 8pm  
Admission Free

### Special Events:

AV Festival 08 Opening Gala  
BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead  
29 February, 8pm, tickets £6

Staalplaat Soundsystem present a live performance version of *Yokomono*, following the AV Festival 08 opening gala performance of John Cage's *Variations VII*.  
AV Festival Box Office: 0191 232 8289 / [bookings@avfestival.co.uk](mailto:bookings@avfestival.co.uk)

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