

CONTACT: Nicole Chism Griffin, PR – The Contemporary Austin
ncgriffin@thecontemporaryaustin.org / 512 453 5312 x 119 (P) / 206 947 2312 (C)

EXPERIMENTAL ART/MUSIC DUO LUCKY DRAGONS TO PERFORM NEW MULTIMEDIA WORK AT THE CONTEMPORARY AUSTIN – LAGUNA GLORIA

17,000 Observations combines live music, a kinetic and sonic sculptural installation, and field recordings of birdcalls gathered in Laguna Gloria's floodplain forest.

WHO **Lucky Dragons** is a collaboration between Sarah Rara and Luke Fischbeck, an L.A.-based duo whose experimental art, musical performances, and participatory projects have been experienced at major art venues around the world, including the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, as part of the 2008 *Whitney Biennial*; the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; and Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris.

WHAT **The Contemporary Presents: Lucky Dragons: 17,000 Observations**, a newly commissioned musical composition, sculptural and sound installation, live performance, and video projection inspired by birdcalls recorded over a 24-hour period at Laguna Gloria.

The live performance includes local percussionists and woodwinds musicians dispersed as quartets, trios, duos, and soloists throughout Laguna Gloria's woods and meadow, accompanied by electronic music performed by Lucky Dragons. The 25-minute performance will repeat once so listeners may experience it from multiple perspectives.

The accompanying sculptural work—a dynamic, reflective mobile installed in the forest—will remain on view through December 9, along with a sound installation integrating elements of the performance and played on a vintage tape deck. Hand-built stools, crafted from a fallen tree discovered on the 12-acre site along Lake Austin, offer a place to rest and observe the changes in light and sound through the woods.

Linking the urban and natural environments of the museum's two sites Lucky Dragons will also produce a video to be projected on the façade of The Contemporary Austin – Jones Center at night, incorporating images of the mobile and forest views from Laguna Gloria.

With *17,000 Observations*, Lucky Dragons responds to and reinforces the sequences and transitions defining natural sites while celebrating the nearly 17,000 bird sightings that have already taken place at Laguna Gloria, an ecologically diverse area popular with birders.

WHERE **Performance and sculptural and sound installations:** Betty and Edward Marcus Sculpture Park at Laguna Gloria, 3809 W. 35th St., Austin, TX 78703

Video projection: Jones Center, 700 Congress Ave., Austin, TX 78701

HOW Free with admission. Info at www.thecontemporaryaustin.org.