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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**KIAC SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS RELEASES FIRST CD**

The KIAC School of Visual Arts (SOVA) is about to release its first CD: *Sonic Palimpsests*. Containing fifteen tracks produced by students in their studio courses at SOVA, the CD is part of a special curriculum project entitled “Over The Wire.” Also included is a bonus track contributed by internationally renowned Canadian composer Tim Hecker (<http://www.sunblind.net>), the guest artist who guided students through the production of their work.

Tim Hecker was engaged as the first artist/mentor for the initial “Over The Wire” (OTW) project that took place last spring. Created by SOVA Instructor Charles Stankieveh, OTW pairs SOVA students with professional artists from across Canada to work on a collaborative project without the physical presence of the guest artist. Communications regarding the project must be conveyed through internet, telephone and video conferencing, hence “Over The Wire.” Once this virtual conduit is established, students work with the guest artist to explore different creative methodologies and areas of experimentation, and finally incorporating their individual creative processes. The resulting audio artworks are as unique as the individuals who created them.

“Tim Hecker allowed us to push the classroom experience into a field not normally covered in foundational art courses—a field the students found extremely rewarding,” said Stankieveh.

“It was a great experience thinking about the implicit and unquestioned ties that constitute my artistic practice while getting students to work on their own approaches to aesthetic issues,” added Hecker.

In addition to a multiple or book that archives each project, OTW documentation can be found at <http://media.kiacsova.ca/over-the-wire>.

The next OTW project, to be completed this winter, pairs students with Toronto visual artist Shary Boyle (<http://www.sharyboyle.com/>) to work on sculptures exploring the subject of maternal relations.

OTW is another example of how the SOVA foundation year provides students with many unique learning experiences that reflect the groundbreaking approach to arts education that is SOVA.

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