

# Breaking Free To Improvise Bulla Radio Conversations On Music, Sound, Free Composition, Experimentation, And Gender In Mexico

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## Abstract

This audio essay explores the work of four women who live in Mexico and perform in free improvisation, free jazz, and who engage in experimental sound practices: Ana Ruiz, Adriana Camacho, Alda Arita and Albania Juárez. The essay is shaped around samples of improvised conversations streamed on Bulla Radio, framed and narrated by Laura Balboa, who hosts the show. These artists were selected because of the synergies in how they reflect on sonic experimentation from a place of freedom, via free improvisation generating personal approaches that sit alongside with participatory practices and acts of self-determination. The slideshow that accompanies the audio essay offers additional information on the artists, researchers and related projects for further investigation on experimentation in sound and music in Mexico. The essay, in particular the samples from Radio Bulla's radical conversations, demonstrates the sonic conviviality that is discussed more broadly in this special issue.

Produced remotely from Malmö, Sweden, Bulla Radio documents part of the vast panorama of sound experimentation and cultural production in Latin America and focuses mainly on Mexico. The voices and narrations come from a wide variety of women and nonbinary guests sharing their practice and trajectory in experimental sound production. The producer and host of Bulla Radio, Laura Balboa, is a Zapotec-Mexican immigrant, multidisciplinary artist, interaction designer and independent researcher who has been living in Sweden for the past ten years. In the last five years, she has engaged in gender perspective research on how sound experimentation exists and resists in the Mexican context. Her investigations span recent decades, exploring work made by producers with academic and non-academic backgrounds.

This is an slideshow article, please visit the source article to view it.