

# Guppy Life

A London-based view on sound, art and related activities

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## [Language podcasts](#)

May 17th, 2007

Wouldn't it be wonderful to speak another language and to use that ability to travel where otherwise the language barrier would not allow? [Open Culture](#) have put together a list of language lesson podcasts - I'm going to give [Mandarin Chinese Lessons with Serge Melnyk](#) a try.

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## [Anthony Gormley: Blind Light](#)

May 17th, 2007



**The Hayward presents *Blind Light*, the first major London showing of the work of British sculptor Antony Gormley.**

The exhibition features a series of brand new monumental works specially conceived for The Hayward's distinctive spaces, including one of the largest ever urban public art commissions, *Event Horizon*, which features sculptural casts of the artist's body on rooftops and public walkways across central London, dramatically transforming the city skyline.

These new works, including a spectacular series of suspended figures created in light-infused webs of steel, are shown alongside a selection of works from the last three decades.

Exhibition opens today and runs until the 19th August.

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## [Denge Sound Mirrors](#)

March 27th, 2007



I've wanted to see the [Denge sound mirrors](#) for some time now as the idea behind them is fascinating but it turns out that now they can only be seen by going on one of the [guided walks](#) organised by the [Romney Marsh Countryside Project](#). The next tour to the sound mirrors is on Sunday 22nd July.

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## [Mixing It is axed, resurrected on Resonance FM](#)

February 26th, 2007



After a 16 year run on [Radio 3](#), the experimental music show [Mixing It](#) presented by Mark Russell and Robert Sandall has been [axed](#). According to the statement from Mark Russell the show had to end with virtually no announcement and they were not allowed to say anything except the factual mention that Friday 9th February would be their last show, even though this had been the longest running programme on Radio 3 with the same presenters.

As this was the only radio programme I listened to regularly the news came as quite a shock, and happily it seems they will be [resurrecting](#) [Mixing It](#) on [Resonance FM](#).

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## [More Arcs 'n Sparks](#)

February 22nd, 2007



Bert Hickman's site, [Stoneridge Engineering](#) has a great page featuring high energy electrical failures and phenomenon. Along with video of an [exploding transformer substation](#) there's the [world's biggest jacob's ladder](#) and an awesome demonstration (pictured) of [high current, low voltage arcing](#):

*“The thermal energy liberated within a high current arc can be many tens of megawatts, and the arc core may reach 35,000 degrees F (four times that of the surface of the sun!). As the arc “roots” vaporize portions of the copper bus bars, the vapor explosively expands to over 60,000 times its solid volume. It then combines with oxygen in the atmosphere, forming dense clouds of copper oxide that blacken the air and nearby objects. Globules of molten copper are also violently ejected, showering the immediate vicinity with 2,000 degree droplets that can approach speeds of 700 miles per hour. Magnetic forces propel the arc along the bus, extending it in the process, and magnetic forces on the bus bars and cables may be sufficient to cause significant mechanical damage, possibly creating additional shrapnel.”*

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## [Christian Fennesz & Charles Atlas at BFI Imax](#)

February 20th, 2007



[Christian Fennesz](#) is performing live in London At the BFI Imax cinema on March 15th as part of a collaboration with video artist [Charles Atlas](#). The performance is part of the [Optronica](#) festival.

[Link](#)

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## [Locus Sonus Audio Streaming Project](#)

February 20th, 2007



I'm a little late on this but the [networked performance](#) blog has a [post](#) inviting people to take part in the [Locus Sonus](#) project. The French-based [project](#) aims to provide a collection of streamed soundscapes from around the world and they have an applet on the website for listening to and mixing the streams in real time.

[Link](#)

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## [The Silophone is still going](#)

February 14th, 2007



Recently I was pleased to discover that the Silophone installation is still alive and well, and their website hasn't vanished into the mists of internet history which is surprising considering the uniqueness of the project and the fact that it was launched seven years ago. You can still play sounds into the colossal disused grain silo in Montreal and hear the reverberating results (sometimes from other users) in real

time. Thanks to [reviax](#) for the photo.

[Link](#)

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## [John Coltrane Robot](#)

February 13th, 2007

This is the legendary song from John Coltrane, “Giant steps”, played by a japanese robot! The result is predictably awful.

[Link](#)

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## [Hogarth](#)

February 12th, 2007

[Tate Britain](#) has a Hogarth exhibition which runs until 29th April.



“The exhibition demonstrates that Hogarth wasn’t only a brilliant satirist as it showcases every aspect of his multi-faceted career: his remarkable paintings, ranging from elegant conversation pieces to salacious brothel scenes; his vibrant drawings and sketches; and the numerous engraved works for which he is most famous today, including Gin Lane and Beer Street . His society portraits easily rival those of Gainsborough or Reynolds, and the variety and energy of his output is outstanding.”

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