

UC San Diego | School of Arts and Humanities | Music

# Displacement

March 4, 2024, 3 to 6pm

March 5, 2024, 7 to 9pm

Conrad Prebys Music Center Experimental  
Theater

Displacement (2024)

Aaron Mencher (1996)

Lighting Designer: Elba Emicente



**UC San Diego**  
SCHOOL OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES  
Department of Music

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## Displacement (2024)

Displacement is a sound installation and sculpture that explores the impact of the military on surrounding civilian communities within San Diego. The piece focuses on the sonic disruption caused by military aircraft. During the installation, the sounds of the fighter jets are played directly into metal plates using transducers. The vibrations shake the dirt and pot fragments on the plates. The moving particulates create additional noise as they crash against the plates intensifying the violence of the sounds. Rangefinder sensors control additional manipulations of the sound based on the audience's proximity to the metal plates. Through this action of displacement, the piece questions how the sonic environment created by the military disturbs the human and natural landscapes around San Diego.

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Elba Emicente (Lighting Designer)

Elba Emicente is a third-year MFA student and Mexican lighting designer for dance, theatre and music performance. She started her career in 2010, in Puebla, Mexico. Since then, her work has been shown across Mexico, Spain, Canada and The United States.

Elba has participated in several national and international festivals as Performatica 2007/2009 editions (MX), The Bates Dance Festival 2009 (USA), Festival Internacional Cervantino 2013 (MX), Festival del Día Internacional de la Danza Puebla 2015 (MX), Muestra Estatal de Teatro Puebla 2016 (MX), Festival Internacional de Teatro México en Montreal 2016 (CA) and Fusebox Festival 2022 (USA).

In recent years, she worked as a Head of Logistics and Lighting Designer in Cultural Promotion at Universidad de las Américas Puebla, Mexico, where she was in charge of productions for the Cultural Representative Teams like Musical Theatre, Classic Ballet, Folk Dance, Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Choir and Symphony Band.

In 2022, Elba was awarded with an annual fellowship by the UC San Diego Division of Arts and Humanities where she was working on her project Lights On!!, in collaboration with the artist Andrea Carmona, founder and director of Ballet Incluyente, an inclusive platform for people with disabilities.

Currently, Elba is pursuing a MFA in Lighting Design at UC San Diego and is still collaborating in cultural and artistic projects with Ballet Incluyente in Mexico and the San Diego regional company Cygnet Theatre.



Aaron Mencher (Composer)

Aaron Mencher writes “sophisticated and compelling” (Boston New Music Initiative) contemporary classical music. Currently, his music focuses on the concepts of utopias, hyperreality, and multimedia collaboration. His artistic practice frequently includes electronic components such as generative scores, DIY hardware electronics, and spatialized audio.

Recently, the Mivos Quartet premiered his piece “Articulate Particulate” for string quartet and generative score in collaboration with geologist Dr. Emily Chin. Additionally, his installation “Displacement” was recently presented with Project [Blank] and will be presented again at UC San Diego. Previous collaborators include the St. Louis Symphony, Albany Symphony, Alarm Will Sound, violinist Patti Kilroy, cellist Dave Eggar, and many others. Aaron has also received recognition from organizations such as ASCAP, The American Modern Ensemble, The Boston New Music Initiative, NAFME, the European-American Musical Alliance, the American Prize, and the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra of New York.

In addition, he has worked on a variety of dramatic projects. He was the sound designer for Grippy Sock Vacation, a new play written by Beth Hyland, which premiered at the 2023 Wagner New Play Festival. Aaron scored a documentary directed by Katie Schnell, and the short film Maggephah directed by Atlanta-based filmmaker Brad McGaughey.

Aaron is currently a PhD student at the University of California San Diego. His teachers include Michelle Lou, Marcos Balter, Oscar Bettison, and Carolina Heredia.

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Audience members are reminded to please silence all phones and noise-generating devices before the performance. As a matter of courtesy and copyright law, no unauthorized recording or photography is allowed in the hall.

UC San Diego is a non-smoking campus.

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