

estlin usher

ARTIST STATEMENT

Location: [Chicago, IL 60622](#)
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SHORT VERSION

estlin usher (b. 1990) is a sound artist and composer based out of Chicago, IL, USA, working with field recording, abstract synthesis, electro-acoustic techniques, and complex sample manipulation to create immersive and evocative listening environments. estlin's work explores the sound of objects in the world, found sound, extant media, and how they relate to history, politics, and concepts beyond the traditional notion of music, sound, and noise.

estlin works in close collaboration with [X. A. Li](#) as [Post Consumer Material](#), an artificial industrial/experimental media and performance project. He currently serves as Co-Founder, Curator, and Director of Programming and Operations at [Leisure](#), an arts space in Humboldt Park, Chicago.

LONG VERSION

estlin usher (b. 1990) is a sound artist and composer based out of Chicago, IL, USA, working with field recording, abstract synthesis, electro-acoustic techniques, and complex sample manipulation to create immersive and evocative listening environments. estlin's work explores the sound of objects in the world, found sound, extant media, and how they relate to history, politics, and concepts beyond the traditional notion of music, sound, and noise.

estlin works in close collaboration with [X. A. Li](#) as [Post Consumer Material](#), an artificial industrial/experimental media and performance project; with Rush Falknor as IG Metall, a proletarian techno group; with Andy Klingensmith as Field Dept., a sound-art project exploring objects, site-specific recordings, and process-based compositional strategies; and with Ryan Dunn as re:, which combines Dunn's (mis)use of obsolete and broken electronics with granular synthesis and signal processing to interrogate the self-referential sound of the machine. He has written music for string quartet, heard on Circuit des Yeux's albums *Overdue* (2013) and *Reaching for Indigo* (2017), and has composed for film, including Derek Spencer's 2024 work *Personally I Find it Rude to be Boring* which debuted at the 31st Chicago Underground Film Festival.

estlin has performed and/or exhibited at various venues across the United States, including on the 16-channel CLEAT system at Elastic Arts (Chicago, IL); at the Empty Bottle (Chicago, IL), the Logan Center for the Arts at the University of Chicago (Chicago, IL); Tritriangle (Chicago, IL); the Tack Room (Chicago, IL); Mana Contemporary (Chicago, IL); CURRENTS New Media Festival (Santa Fe, NM); and more. He has released work on labels including Modern Concern, Public Utility, Structures Without Purpose, and Amateur Electronics. He currently serves as Co-Founder, Curator, and Director of Programming and Operations at [Leisure](#), an arts space in Humboldt Park, Chicago.

He holds a B.A. from the University of Chicago in Music Composition and Philosophy, where he studied under Füsün Köksal, Marta Ptasińska, and Augusta Read Thomas (Music Composition), and with Arnold Davidson, Ted Cohen, Robert Pippin, and Gabriel Richardson Lear (Philosophy).