

# Art in America

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MAKING NOISE: MIKA TAJIMA ON YOUTUBE

By Josephine Heston



View of Mika Tajima's installation and performance *Disassociate*, 2007, featuring New Humans, Vito Acconci, and C. Spencer Yeh; at Elizabeth Dee, New York. Photo Jenny Moore.

New York artist Mika Tajima creates sculptures, installations, prints, and performances based on digital data that she collects. Her work often reflects the relationship between changing economic conditions and collective human emotions. *Meridian (Gold)*, a public sculpture commissioned by SculptureCenter and currently on view in Long Island City, Queens, uses illuminated fog to create a sense of flux, the intensity and gradations of color connected to fluctuations in the futures market.

William S. Smith, who wrote about Tajima in our June/July 2016 issue, suggests that her practice reveals “rigid and unforgiving structures—and perhaps offers an alternative to them—through an aesthetic defined by slacking, melting, dissolving, billowing, breaking apart.” As Smith further writes, Tajima discussed her affinity for

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the slacker in a 2011 conversation with director Richard Linklater at the Blanton Museum of Art. Tajima has also expressed this impulse against mechanized devices and schedules through her freeform performance and sound projects, created as a part of the group New Humans.

For an introduction to Tajima's work, we have assembled a playlist of videos on YouTube, from a performance at the Artissima art fair in 2008 to a collaboration with designer Sonia Rykiel to a walkthrough of her 2011 exhibition at the Seattle Art Museum. Other video works, including filmed performance projects produced with New Humans, are available on UbuWeb.

Visit our *Mika Tajima* playlist here. [<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLEkVY6p7Ye9qsndUYI0eLMD1XPb-Gkz50>]