

M.I.A., Rockin' Mail Art Workshop, Odunde African-American Festival and "Radio Rocks."



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"Radio Rocks"

by Tara Nurin

Fri., June 6, 5-7pm. Free. Through June 21. Larry Becker Contemporary Art, 43 N. Second St. 215.925.5389.

www.artnet.com/lbecker.html

If you hear the artwork at the "Radio Rocks" exhibition at Larry Becker Contemporary Art, don't worry—it's not the voices in your head. Expanding the theme introduced to Philly in Esther M. Klein Gallery's "Odor Limits" exhibit, Dove Bradshaw's mineral sculptures are bringing us to our (other) senses. More accurately, they're channeling noise from Jupiter and the origins of the universe. While this sounds like a PR ploy or a claim of the tin-foil hat people, it's actually real and fairly simple: Bradshaw designed three cairns—cone-shaped rock formations used as astronomical markers in Neolithic times. Each cairn supports three crystal radios that receive audio frequencies ranging from world-band short-wave and microwave to commercial radio stations. For the first time in this international exhibition, live storm and solar wind patterns from Jupiter are transmitting via an audio telescope at a North Carolina astronomical institute. To continue the evolution-obsessed year in Philly, another sculpture transmits echoes from the big bang. Creationists can skip this frequency and crank up the volume (yes, modern cairns have dials to twiddle) of local AM and FM radio. Or try to tune into an alternative universe where former Philly DJs Kidd Chris and Booker are actually funny. Kidding. It's science, people—not magic.