



*Radio Rock*, 1998/2007, pyrite embedded igneous rock, gold-tipped cat whisker, radio parts, speakers, 12 ½ x 18 ½ x 10 inches

## DOVE BRADSHAW

### *Radio Rocks*

Larry Becker Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

May - June, 2008

*The inclusion of noises in [music]...is an admission of the liveliness of sound whether it originates inside or outside the boundaries of art.*

John Cage

Larry Becker Contemporary Art is proud to present *Radio Rocks*, Dove Bradshaw's latest *time-sculptures*; the introduction of sound heralds a new involvement with Indeterminacy in her work. Beginning in 1969 she embraced Indeterminacy with the unpredictability of birds, then moved onto materials susceptible to weather and atmospheric conditions, the chance positioning of elements, the gradual erosion of salt and stone by water, and the use of other unstable substances such as acetone, mercury, and sulfur. Fourteen years ago, she first exploited pyrite's instability to *weather* sculptures; upon learning that it was used in crystal radios in 1998 she conceived of her first sound-sculpture. Designs for *Radio Rocks* were developed over a period of two years in consultation with inventor Robert Bishop who built them according to Bradshaw's plans.

In 2006 the Baronessa Lucrezia Durini commissioned the first permanent installation in Bolognanao, Italy. Pyrite and galena, acting as non-linear mixers continuously draw in random local and world band short waves. A third receiver, using technology developed by the satellite industry, channels live microwave sounds identified as echoes of the Big Bang. This exhibition features three cone-shaped sculptures, each composed of a different stone –Wissahickon schist, Pocono sandstone, and a basalt mixture. These shapes, chosen to evoke cairns once used as Neolithic astronomical markers, also function as multidirectional antennae. Within each sculpture there are three radios, each designed to receive frequencies from a different zone – local, world band short-wave, and outer space. In addition to galena, and pyrite, fluorite, and tourmaline act as non-linear mixers and are computer programmed to attract random local and world-band stations. Hematite acts as a mixer continuously channeling a Weather Radio station. For the first time for this exhibition live radio emissions from Jupiter will be transmitted on a dedicated line from a radio telescope at Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute (PARI) in Rosman, North Carolina. Random radio storms including *S-Bursts* – bursts of less than a hundredth of a second occurring during storms lasting for two or three hours – and *Bow Shocks* – the sound of solar windflow hitting Jupiter's magnetic field will be captured. Levels are set at a murmur – the sounds from space invoking celestial harmonies that from the quieter time of Pythagoras have been referred to as the "Music of the Spheres."