

Danae Valenza (b. 1985 Australia)

*Your Motion Says*, 2016

activated neon, sound

various dimensions

Danae Valenza explores the artistic, political, historical, and social aspects of music and sound, often working in close collaboration with musicians, composers, performers and technicians. Her practice draws attention to the role that music plays in forging connections between individuals and communities.

In *Your Motion Says* music is both heard and seen. In this installation of eight neon sculptures, the movement and proximity of people trigger bursts of vivid colour and sound. Valenza invited musicians to improvise around the structure of the song 'Ebb Tide', composed in 1953 by Robert Maxwell. While the neon sculptures appear as abstract forms, together they read 'It's just a matter of deciding where to begin' in tee line shorthand notation, a writing system that uses symbols for sounds or words. Shorthand enables dialogue to be transcribed into text as fast as it is spoken. Once commonly used by secretaries and reporters, shorthand is now vanishing as its usefulness is increasingly challenged by electronic recorders.

Valenza considered form, colour and location of the sculptures for the pitch, sound and volume of each instrument. This correlation between sight and sound recalls other forms of visual music, like the abstract films of early 20th century filmmakers such as Len Lye and Oskar Fischinger, whose animations of shapes, patterns, and colours represented the dynamic rhythm, tempo, and tone colour of music.