

White noise, more white noise, more white noise. He tries the AM bands, then the FM. Nothing. Just that sound, like the sound of starlight scratching its way through outer space: *kkkkkkkk*. Then he tries the short-wave. He moves the dial slowly and carefully. Maybe there are other countries, distant countries, where the people may have escaped. . . They wouldn't have escaped though.

- Margaret Atwood, *Oryx and Crake*

As floodwaters rose, (Jay) Fink interrupted the regular Sunday programming on WRIP-FM (97.9); instead of a classic Casey Kasem countdown, listeners found Mr. Fink — beginning what would be a 13-hour on-air marathon. He calmly fielded calls from people trapped by the surging waters and doled out information on makeshift shelters.

- Susanne Craig, "*Radio D.J. in the Catskills Offered a Lifeline During the Storm*", *The New York Times*, September 4th, 2011

\$180.00 gift: 3-Day Emergency Kit from Essential Packs:

This 3-day emergency kit gives you the necessities you will need in an emergency. The 3-day emergency kit includes food, water, warmth, light, communication, and first aid all packed in a medium backpack for easy transporting.

Contents:

- 1 AM/FM/NOAA (7 ch.) Emergency Radio with Cell Phone Charger
- 1 2400-Calorie Food Bar
- 6 Water Pouches, 4.2 oz ea
- 3 Hand & Body Warmers
- 1 Emergency Poncho
- 1 Emergency Blanket
- 1 Box of Waterproof Matches
- 1 5-in-1 Survival Whistle
- 1 Lightstick
- 1 37 piece First-Aid Kit
- 1 Tissue Pack
- 1 Medium Backpack

With the Essential Packs emergency weather band radio with solar panel and hand turbine power generator, you'll be prepared for anything.

- KQED (88.5 FM San Francisco) Pledge Gift Catalog



On November 2nd, 1920

(ninety-seven years and one day before the exhibition opening) the world's first commercial radio broadcast was heard on KDKA Pittsburgh, known then as 8ZZ. Utilizing technology developed by engineer and enthusiast Frank Conrad just a few blocks from Powder Room, the voice of Leo Rosenberg relayed presidential election results to a rapt local audience before the arrival of the next morning's newspaper.

It was, at the time, a historically speedy conveyance of information.

Today when the radio dial in the car scans endlessly, looping back and forth from 87.5 to 107.9 to 87.5, it indicates that one is "out there", isolated, driving incommunicado. When the radio signal is removed, it is a sign of distress or dislocation. Witness the jarring tone of the Emergency Broadcast System, a monthly cold war hangover injected into the home. This losing-the-signal has become a trope of post-apocalyptic fiction, a metaphor for societal disintegration epitomized by the absence of pop-connectivity. No more news and weather on the tens. No more top 40. No more pledge drives. This removal of information becomes a slowing, a breakdown, a reversion to an uncomfortable pre-technological age.



(pronounced: 87.5 to 107.9, 530 to 1710) presents new sculptures, paintings and audio by Alex Lukas exploring the space of this breakdown. Interrogating the aesthetics of radio both historically and in speculative post-apocalyptic futures, Lukas' work examines removal of the lifeline provided by terrestrial broadcast. Through a series of works utilizing the format of the digital display, an efficient form capable of replicating the English alphabet, select punctuation, and digits 0 - 9, Lukas presents relics of radio in an imagined future.



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(87.5 to 107.9, 530 to 1710)
Alex Lukas

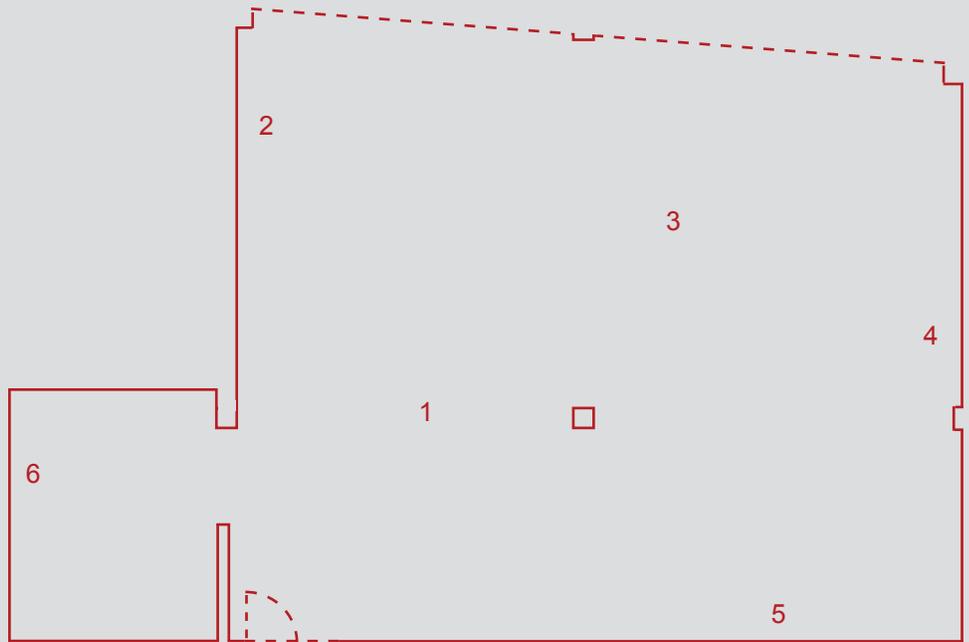
November 3rd - 10th, 2017



POWDER ROOM

201 N. Braddock Ave. 2nd Fl
Pittsburgh, PA

Powder-Room.website



- 1 *Z-100 WHTZ*, 2017
Wood, steel, vinyl and misc. Hardware, 89.5" x 30" x 27.5"
- 2 *Untitled (Tire Planters)*, 2017
Inkjet Print, 13" x 19"
- 3 *87.5 to 107.9, 530 to 1710*, 2017
Fluorescent lights, steel, sandbags, 56.25" x 60" x 120" *
- 4 *780 WBBM*, 2017
Enamel and acrylic on canvas, 15" x 11.75"
- 5 *880 WCBS*, 2017
Enamel and acrylic on canvas, 12.5" x 29"
- 6 *1010 WINS*, 2017
Enamel and acrylic on canvas, 19" x 44" with fluorescent light on steel armature.

- Audio:
- On The Road Again (1965)*
 - On The Road Again (1965)*
 - On The Road Again (1967)*
 - Turn The Page (1973)*
 - On The Road Again (1979)*
 - On The Road Again (1981)*

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POWDER ROOM is a project space run by Carnegie Mellon University School of Art Masters candidates and is made possible through a generous gift from Nancy and Woody Ostrow.