



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / December 23, 2020**—Since shelter-in-place orders, the ICA San José's staff have been working from home and unable to answer the office phones. In the spirit of embracing new challenges and reimagining ways to experience art, we invited Oakland-based artist **Beth Krebs** to take over our voicemail box as an uncommon art space for uncommon times. This program is part of the ongoing ICA San José series *PSA (Practice Safe Art)* – programs and exhibitions that keep us connected while experienced at a distance.

The *Still on Hold Hotline* is an interactive sound project that can be accessed by calling the ICA San José's phone number at **(408) 283-8155**. A caller may choose from a menu of options, including one that invites them to leave a message. Krebs' hotline presents an opportunity to listen in on the looping internal thoughts of a large group of voices. Whether a pop song, advertising jingle, mantra, or worry, the things that circle in our heads offer a glimpse of what we absorb, consciously or unconsciously, from our environment: consumer culture, politics, media, and advice. They also reveal the alternately funny and tender ways we cope with the world or try to escape from it.

Krebs presents eight sound collages composed of layered, looping phrases. Each is organized around a shared concern and presented as a menu item: "For concerns about money, press 1. For concerns about mortality, press 2," and so on. The looping phrases and the looping structure of the voicemail menu echo the widespread experience that has accompanied the shelter in place for many- the feeling of living the same day over and over. The voices were drawn from a large pool of interviews Krebs recorded in different regions of the US (NYC, SF Bay Area, Memphis, and New Orleans) before the pandemic, and from virtual interviews since it began. The hotline will continue to evolve as Krebs folds in recordings from callers who leave a voicemail message.

### **About Beth Krebs**

Beth Krebs' work champions faith against the odds. She explores this subject, with humor and empathy, in a multidisciplinary practice that includes installations, sculptures, videos, sound, and participatory projects. A graduate of the MFA program at Rutgers University, Beth has exhibited her work in New York City, San Francisco and abroad, and has been awarded residencies at the MacDowell Colony, Crosstown Arts, and the Bemis Center. She is a recipient of a Joan Mitchell Foundation MFA grant, and completed a fellowship at the San Francisco dump (Recology) in 2018. She lives and works in Oakland, California.

### **For more information:**

<https://www.icasanjose.org/upcoming-events/still-on-hold-hotline/>  
[www.bethkrebs.com](http://www.bethkrebs.com)

### **About the ICA San José:**

Established in 1980, The Institute of Contemporary Art San José (ICA) is a non-collecting contemporary art museum committed to examining the most urgent contemporary issues through the lens of artistic practice. Located in downtown San José, the ICA provides a platform for changing the enlarging and broadening the art historical canon, providing visibility and critical examination for the most inclusive selection of artists possible and reflecting the diverse population of the region. The ICA is equally committed to reflecting the diversity of its audiences and offering engagement with the best contemporary art practice for free.

### **ICA San José**

560 South First Street, San José, CA 95113

408-283-8155/[www.icasanjose.org](http://www.icasanjose.org)

[#icasanjose](https://www.instagram.com/icasanjose)

Admission to the ICA is always free.

The ICA is wheelchair accessible.

The ICA is currently closed.

