



Released by Cherchez La Femme Projects, October 2012
 Stream available on Soundcloud, tracks available for purchase on iTunes
<http://soundcloud.com/sarahdougher/sets/fin-de-si-cle-a-play/>
 contact: sarahdougher@gmail.com
www.sarahdougher.net

Fin de Siècle is Portland composer Sarah Dougher's musical interpretation of renowned American poet Leslie Scalapino's 1990 set of three experimental poem-plays by the same name. Scalapino's *Fin de Siècle* is an abstract narrative invoking war, labor, class struggle, and the fundamental interiority of experience—a visionary manifestation of the poet's passionate humanism. Dougher's piece weds voice with an ensemble of piano, violin, cello, trumpet, trombone and percussion, overlaying the composition with video projection. Structured as a set of emotive, melodic songs, Dougher's work echoes Scalapino's hybrid practice, inhabiting a musical space between art song and pop. The work embraces Scalapino's challenging use of language through a richly textured score, which takes cues from minimalism as much as from pop melody. *Fin de Siècle* is an ambitious synthesis of Dougher's celebrated folk-rock solo music and choral compositions.

Leslie Scalapino (1944–2010) published her first book of poems in 1976, subsequently authoring thirty books of poetry, prose, plays, and essays, often collaborating with fellow writers and artists such as Kevin Killian, Petah Coyne, and Kiki Smith. In 1988, her poem, *way*, received the Poetry Center Award and the American Book Award from the Before Columbus Foundation. Scalapino's plays are collected in the 2008 volume, *It's go in horizontal*.

Sarah Dougher is a musician, composer, and university professor. She has performed and recorded music for over twenty years, and has received commissions from the Classical Greek Theater of Oregon, the Oregon Arts Commission, the Multnomah County Library, and the Douglas F. Cooley Gallery, Reed College. She has released records on K, Kill Rock Stars, Mr. Lady, and her own label, Cherchez La Femme Projects. Her catalog is available on iTunes.

Fin de Siècle debuted at the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art's Time Based Art Festival on September 14, 2011. The project was made possible with a commission from the estate of Leslie Scalapino, and a grant from the Oregon Arts Commission. Track List:

Fin de Siècle, A Play

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. 1.1 I will be | 4:42 |
| 2. 1.2 A scorching day | 2:40 |
| 3. 1.3 That means being defined | 1:26 |
| 4. 1.4 Graffiti on wall | 2:03 |
| 5. 1.5 They're in the corporation | 2:18 |
| 6. 1.6 Very heavy with child | 4:25 |
| 7. 1.7 Small child romping on the hill | 3:14 |
| 8. Fin de Siècle 20th, A Play | 6:33 |

Fin de Siècle III, A Play

- | | |
|------------|------|
| 9. Part 1 | 2:11 |
| 10. Part 2 | 1:53 |
| 11. Part 3 | 1:56 |
| 12. Part 4 | 1:33 |
| 13. Part 5 | 2:04 |
| 14. Part 6 | 2:12 |

