The Sound Canvas [Version 1.0] is being developed as a part of my research in to new musical instruments created from discarded electronics, thrift items, harvested components and sculpture. In this case I am creating performance as sound and sculpture. The performer is not attached to the instrument and creates sound by applying substances to, or physically touching, the canvas with brushes and other various implements. Any substance can be used. I have attached sweet wrappers\(^1\) to the canvas and then applied a freezing aerosol. The freezing and thawing sounds are amplified and, in combination with the aforementioned techniques, can be developed in to a creative sound performance.

It’s a static device that is ‘treated’ in a live situation by the performer who is given free gestural play of the performance space. This separation of performer and instrument allows the performer to focus their gestural and musical imagination on to the physical static surface of the canvas without having the constraint of constant physical contact with the instrument.

Three separate outputs from three separate contact microphones allow the performer to control the spatial positioning of the sound with their gestures on the canvas with up to three independent speakers for each canvas.

When using this instrument musicians become performers, performers become musicians and both become artists.
The instrument creates traditional noise and produces nice painting at the end of the show. Version 2 will have removable electronics that can be re-attached to a new blank canvas thus allowing it to be much easier for the used canvas to be hung and appreciated.

1 Cadbury’s Roses manufacture the best wrappers for making crackly noise.