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Art 175 Section 2

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Exploration Through Contemporary Electronic Music with Nic Collins

Nic Collins is a professor in the Department of Sound at the School of the Art

Institute of Chicago, specializing in experimental, computer, and sound art to interact with

electronics to objects to produce strange music as an artform. When Nic mentions about his

insight to what music can potentially be, I agree and can relate to the possibilities artists and

composers can do with music. The unique sounds produced from all objects and actions seem

limitless, transpiring from thought to a phrase. Because of how sounds are manipulated and

altered to center around a conceptual idea or an interpretation of an existing thing, I ponder at the

contemporary definition of music similar to the complex contemplation to understanding the

definition of art. As an experienced percussionist, I have already played classic and

contemporary music, understanding rhythm and the melodies that guide the audience in a poetic

journey. After hearing Nic Collins' sound work, I was intrigued and confused because his

composition at first seems to defy what I have learned in music classes. However, it is as relative

that it is as abstract as witnessing a minimalistic artwork.

When it comes to electronics representing as an art medium, I believe it can be a

composition just as a jazz band can play their music. Nic Collins stated that in the right context,

electronics can be an instrument but it cannot hold the entire art piece alone. I disagree with the

idea because if an electronic can play a single sound, an artist can alter the amplitude, frequency,

and so forth to change the texture and tone of that same sound. Solo music pieces exist for individual instruments including snare drums, expressing creativity to create and utilize multiple sounds. I need to think about how to cleverly use the tools I am given and found to the best of its ability. Although I may have not the time to explore every corner of its capabilities, I understand curiosity lead to discovery, taking sounds and creatively composing sound art from technology.