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ART175

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Reading Four

We are living in the time that asks ourselves what is “essential” in our lives. Most of the time, we consider food, clothing, and shelter are the necessities of life. However, art became essential to me since art does heal my emptiness and depressing emotions with this shelter-in-place order. And this reading includes many inspiring artists, and it reminded me again that art is essential in our daily lives, and enriches our days.

Carsten Nicolai's *reflektor distortion* work was simple but effectively delivered the message of what the artist wanted to show. People can't hear the low sound frequencies, so we cannot hear anything, but it is interesting that we can “see” the sound. Moreover, that visual is shown with water reflection, and it adds even more aspects of audio visualization. In addition, I like Nicolai's approach because it enables the people who are not able to listen to feel the artwork and let them experience the work. Also, the simplicity of monochrome presents a deep feeling and lets the audience focus. I'd like to learn Nicolai's monochrome aspect of work, and sense of belonging.

Haroon Mirza's works are poetic but at the same time very straightforward. The presentation and messages are simple but strong. He let the audience physically experience the sound and feel it. I liked how he found the artistic aspect from basic

things that were around us: the sound of dropping water, blinking lights, clicking sound of motion picture projector, and cooking sound. The ability to find out the specialty from the usual daily life things and to put into art is the part I always want to learn from artists.

Janet Cardiff's *The Forty Part Motet* reminds me of the day we learned how to set up multiple channel speakers in class. Even though setting up 40 channels of sound is difficult enough work, I would like to see more parts of it.

Lawrence Abu Hamdan's counter-surveillance works are cynical and deep. *Rubber Coated Steel* used a sense of cold sound from the machine, and I felt like it has similarities with practicing gun shooting which gives a more scary feeling. I like how Hamdan keeps working with telling people the topic of surveillance, and effective and easy delivery of those messages to the audience.