

Intermission: Audio Portraits of Place - Mapping The Air Space Between A-B

Introduction:

What can a field recording tell us about architecture?

When we think about architecture we think of how a building looks, it is dominated by the tyranny of the visual. How a place looks is only a small part of *being* there. The sound of a place, although perceived secondarily, is fundamental to our experience of it.

'Intermission' was an international 'open call' inviting artists to collaborate in the construction of an audio map by making a 'portrait' of their locality - mapping the air space between A & B. Over 105 people responded to this call from many countries. Their responses create a map, but also take us on a journey. The map is a sonic register indexically linked to specific places, whilst the journey emerges through the individual works and the inevitable connections and narratives between them. As the programme unfolds it will create the sensation of listening to a map whilst simultaneously hearing the unfolding of intimate and ephemeral moments.

In these coherent drifts through sonic worlds there is a sense of making sense of place and an aesthetic pleasure in the recording of a cycle ride through a city whilst whistling 'The Girl From Ipanema' or birdsong next to a motorway.

This is the first way that this map of field recordings can tell us about architecture & place, because they record places as lived environments rather than images. They describe inhabited townscapes, places where people get off a bus, go into a shop, talk in a cafe, bump into a friend, take children to school or attend a public event. All of these activities make up the fabric of life, but they are not 'about' architecture, architecture happens around these events. It is a backdrop. Being able to listen reminds us that another kind of place exists. It is a place of rhythm, pathways, habits, memories, connections, conversations and experiences. This city happens around architecture and not because of it. Through these recordings we can hear these invisible landscapes. Where does laughter, conversation, live music, happen, and where is it absent? What are the centers? Where is the beauty?

This audio map is the playing out of sounds, ideas, field recordings, footage and imaginings from geography to create a new topography- a new map. A map that connects sounds to place and then forges connections between places. It connects people and ideas. Situations that seemed singular have become multiple. We listened to every audio file that we had been sent. This experience was incredible and rich and so many artists have collaborated with us that the job of organising the broadcast became one of drawing pieces into conversation. Five main 'programmes' have emerged and these will be played out over the course of the weekend.

The dance between the 'Global'- i.e global capitalism and the 'local' characterised by words like community, history, tradition and personal narrative is striking in many of the works. The same conversation is repeated from places as disparate as Cairo, Greece, Ireland, Mexico and Bogota and that is one of 'Development', an innocuous word that at once suggests moving forward or improvement but often means the corporate colonization of place, with uncertain benefits to the local. Through these works there is a feeling of reporting back or giving voice to events, traditions or cultures that are at the acute point of 'the global'.

This interplay is particularly explored through the sections of the programme called 'Territories' where you will hear sound pieces that explore, and to an extent, celebrate the human but which also articulate a growing sense of resistance. Similarly in 'Convergence' where many of the pieces record the intermeshing of organic sound and human made sound. Here our voices lie somewhere between birdsong and traffic drone.

The section of the programme called 'Psychogeographies' explores the manifestation of time through place, interrogating sonic landscapes to reveal secret histories through anecdote, folklore and personal narrative. Through these works a deeper connection to the 'meaning' of a place begins to emerge as micro histories become present.

Many of the artists have responded conceptually to the call either by questioning the nature of field recording itself whilst other works respond to the idea of the journey. These can be listened to in the section of the programme called 'Reflexivity'. 'Dis-orienting' will broadcast pieces where field recordings are taken as a starting point, distorted, manipulated or abstracted so that we might be transported into a more liminal space.

This map of our 'sonic habitat' is multifaceted. Each piece is an artwork in itself and should be considered as such. As a programme our patchwork of recorded moments describes an invisible architecture that is deafeningly present. This capturing represents a resistance. Together they draw a map that connects voices and makes links between people and places. As the local is being made in the image of the global (un-elected coportations remodelling townscapes in their own image) this connecting of voices is empowering and vital.

Artists:

Acoustic Mirror / Madrid, Spain
Alan Dunn & Jeff Young / Liverpool, UK
Alan Gleeson / Berlin, Germany
Aldene Rocha and Ingeborg Blom Andersskog / Rio de Janeiro, Brasil
Alejandro Cornejo Montibeller / Lima, Peru
Alejandro Villegas / Bogota, Colombia
Aline Dufat / London, UK
Amira Hanafi / Cairo, Egypt
Ana Gandum / Lisboa, Portugal
Antonio Bermudez / Bogota, Colombia
Ashley Scott / Sydney, Australia
Balam Ronan / Mexico
Becky Grajeda / Chicago, Illinois, USA
Betelhem Makonnen / Rio de Janeiro, Brasil
Brendan Baylor / Iowa City, USA
Camille Lacroix - Paris, France / Stockholm, Sweden
Charlotte Wendy Law / London, UK
Chris Wood / London, UK
Christiana Kazakou / London, UK
Christopher DeLaurenti / Williamsburg, VA USA
Cristina Gaviria Beltran / Bogota, Colombia
Dafydd Sills-Jones / Aberystwyth, Wales
Damir Kustic / Rijeka, Croatia
David Blame / London, UK
David Brazier, Kelda Free and Advent Sorrow / Perth, Australia
David Tarnow and Doug Wright / Canada
David Tomaloff / Racine, USA
Dirk Elst / Ghent, Belgium
Dixie Treichel / Minneapolis, MN, USA
Elisabetta Senesi / Florence, Italy
Emiliano Battistini / Rimini, Italy
Eric Leonardson / USA
Estelle Rosenfeld / Ramsgate, UK
Felix Blume / Mexico City, Mexico/France/Belgium
Flavien Gillie / Nievroz, France
Gabriel Dernbach / Berlin, Germany
Gintas k / Marijampole, Lithuania
GRAU/T / Essen, Germany
Greg Ruben / Brooklyn, New York, USA
James W. Norton / London and Cambridge, UK
Jan Van Den Dobbeltstein / Eindhoven, The Netherlands
Jess Allen, Herefordshire, UK
Joao Bento / Portugal
John F. Barber / Vancouver, Washington, USA
Jordan Cleland / Indianapolis, IN, USA
Jorn Ebner / Berlin Kreuzberg, German
Jose Pastor / Aldeia do Mato, Portugal
Julia Heslop / Newcastle upon Tyne, England
Aifoon- Jurgen de Blonde / Belgium
Kevin Logan / London, UK
Larry Achiampong / London, UK

Mandy Williams / London, UK
Marcelo Armani / Canoas, Brasil
Marco Lampis / Italy
Maria Balabas / Romania
Maria Best / Germany
Maria Papadomanolaki / London, UK
Mario Lautier Vella / Hertfordshire, UK
Mark Hardy / USA
Marssares / Marica, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil
Matt Warren / Hobart, Australia
Mauro Se Rego Costa / Rio de Janeiro, Brasil
Michael Cousin / Wales, Cardiff
Munan Ovrelid and Marcellvs L / Berlin, Germany
Natasha Lowe Swingle / London, UK
Nigel Helyer / North Fremantle, Australia
Noah Jurcin / Chicago, USA
Paul Collins/ Paris, France / Toronto, Canada
Pedro Garbellini / Sao Paulo, Brasil
Peter Barnard / Amersham, UK
Peter Lenaerts / Belgium
Peter Strickmann / Saarbrücken, Germany
Rachel Andrews, Co Leitrim / Ireland
Radio APPROXIM / Uden, Netherlands
Randolph Jordan / Vancouver, Canada
Rebecca Louise Collins / Wales
Renee Lauzon / USA
Riccardo Benassi / Berlin, Germany
Saba Hasan / New Delhi, India
Sam Heydt / USA
Sierra Mitchell / Chicago IL USA
Simon Serc / Slovenia
Sirpa Jokinen / Helsinki, Finland
Speculum / Los Angeles, USA
Stuart Craig / Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK
Susanna Jurvanen / Finland
Tariq Emam / Scarborough, UK
The Psychogeographical Commission / Glasgow
Tricia Flanagan / Kowloon City, Hong Kong
Ulrich Ludat / Saarbrücken, Germany
Uwe Kirsch Aka Genarten / Bremen, Germany
Virgilio Oliveira / Currently living in London, UK.
William Diaz / Bogota, Colombia
Wiska Radkiewicz and Andrea Cohen / France / USA
Yorgos Taxiarchopoulos / Greece

How To Listen:

The Programme will run 20-22 September
www.stress.fm

'Intermission' is a collaboration between Echoes (www.osso.pt) & Jennie Savage. STRESS.FM

