

**Steve Roden**

**Active Listening//2005**

[...] Active listening is being open to the possibilities of music and it is being open to these possibilities in spaces outside of concert halls and car radios – for certainly music is everywhere. John Cage's writings/thinkings/talkings about sound/music/listening have asked us to consider that anything can be music. I like to tweak this proposition with the thought that although anything can be music, not everything is music. Marcel Duchamp spoke of the viewer completing a work of art and that a work of art has no meaning without a viewer to bring meaning to it. And so I think, as active listeners, we can become 'composer listeners', as we decide what sounds in the world we are going to ignore and what we will choose to listen to as music. Anyone who has stood at the side of a small stream, lost in the sounds of the water flowing over the stones, has already done this. [...]

Steve Roden, extract from 'Active Listening', text for the *Bronx Soundwalk* catalogue (Paris and New York: Soundwalk, 2005) n.p. ([www.soundwalk.com](http://www.soundwalk.com))