

AUDIO SUICIDE

Performer throws screaming loudspeakers off tower.



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CV : Benoît Maubrey

Benoît Maubrey was born of French parents in Washington DC in 1952.
He graduated in 1975 with a Bachelor of Arts Diploma from Georgetown University.
In 1979 he moved to West Berlin and after the collapse of the former East Germany moved to the state of Brandenburg where he and his partner Susken Rosenthal founded the non-profits arts organization Kunstpflug e.V. His performance and installation work has been presented in many international art festivals, Since 1990 he lives and works in the village of Baitz (near Belzig, Brandenburg/).

Since 1983 numerous performances and exhibitions (a selection):
Ars Electronica (1985), SONAMBIENTE/ Academy of Arts Berlin(1996), Tokyo City Opera/ NTT-ICC (1997), International Symposium of Electronic Arts/Chicago (1997), The Kitchen /NYC, Monaco Dance Danses Forum (2000), Seoul Performing Arts Festival, Location One/NYC, Gracia Territoria Sonor/Barcelona, (2003), Thailand New Media Art Festival/Bangkok, Sitelines Festival/NYC (2006), Schloss Moyland/ Joseph Beuys Archive. (2007), Mostra des Artes/ Sao Paulo (2008).

Awards and Honors

European Award for Street Theatre/Holzminden 1995,
Franklin Furnace Fund for Performance NYC 2006.

Grants\ residencies:

1999 Hull Time Based Arts/UK,
2006 KuenstlerSchloss Wiepersdorf, Brandenburg/Germany.

Selected Bibliography:

-- LEONARDO, Vol.28, No.2, pp.93-97, 1995, Audio Jackets and Other Electroacoustic Clothes.
-- BENOÎT MAUBREY/ DIE AUDIO GRUPPE, catalog 1985.
-- Die Audio Gruppe 1982-1998, catalog 1989.
-- PERFORMANCES WITH ELECTROACOUSTIC CLOTHES, DVD 2007.
-- KLANG und BEWEGUNG, Berichte aus der Musikwissenschaft, Shaker Verlag ISBN 3-8322-2270-7

Miscellaneous:

Workshop/ presentations (selection) at the MIT Media Lab, Oberlin College,
Johns Hopkins University.



Past work

Benoît Maubrey is the founder and director of DIE AUDIO GRUPPE a Berlin-based art group that build and perform with electroacoustic clothes. Basically these are electronic clothes and dresses (equipped with amplifiers and loudspeakers) that make sounds by interacting with their environment. The first prototypes in 1982 and 83 were created from second-hand clothes fitted with loudspeakers, batteries, and a small amplifier that played pre-recorded cassettes via portable cassette decks (also known as "Walkmans"). In 1985 during an outdoor arts competition for the BundesgartenSchau in Berlin I developed the idea of "audio uniforms": custom-build suits and costumes that combine various thematic articles of clothing with site-specific electroacoustic equipment. The costumes are worn by performers who interact with the environment as mobile and multiacoustic sculptures.

In 1989 I started building the first "audio tutus" for the Ballerinas. At this point the Walkmans were replaced with samplers chips (from the surplus electronic supply catalogs) which enabled the dancers to spontaneously record, play back and manipulate sounds from their environment (the DIGITAL MEMORY piece). Eventually I also equipped the costumes with an assortment of electronic instruments that allowed me to orchestrate/choreograph them into various interactive musical compositions or "audio ballets" -- for example light sensors that enable them to produce sounds through the interaction of their movements and the surrounding light (PEEPER choreography). Via movement sensors they can also trigger electronic sounds that are subsequently choreographed --or "orchestrated"-- into musical compositions as "audio ballets" (YAMAHA choreography). A variety of other electronic instruments (mini-computers, samplers, contact microphones, cassette and CD players, and radio receivers) allow them to work with the sounds, surfaces, and topographies of the space around them in a variety of solo or group choreographies.

Primarily Die Audio Gruppe's work is site-specific: the main emphasis of the work is to adapt electronics into entirely new "Audio Uniforms" or "sonic costumes" that reflect local customs, themes, or traditions (AUDIO GEISHA/Japan, AUDIO CYCLISTS/France, AUDIO STEELWORKERS/ Linz, AUDIO VACUUM CLEANERS/Berlin, AUDIO JEANS/ USA).

