



Press Release

SOUNDWAVES

A six-week exhibition of contemporary sonic art

May 18th – Jun 29th 2007 at Kinetica Museum, Old Spitalfields Market

From a Soviet invention that turns light into sound, to an automated orchestra made of household objects, 'Soundwaves' will bring together contemporary artworks that explore, warp, collect and manipulate sound.

Collaborating with the Cybersonica Festival, Kinetica will present the work of more than 15 prominent and pioneering U.K and European artists and feature 4 brand new commissions supported by Arts Council England.

The exhibition is the latest in a series of Kinetica shows that have focused on art that harnesses fundamental forces, such as light ('Luminaries and Visionaries'), magnets ('Magnetic Visions') and life itself ('Lifeforms').

Exhibited works at 'Soundwaves' will include:

- *Mecanology*, an orchestra of household objects by Pierre Bastien;
- The shadow-responsive sculptures of Peter Vogel;
- Rob Mullender's version of the "photophonic sound synthesizer", a Skriabin-inspired machine to turn light into sound that was originally invented by the Soviet scientist Yvegny Murzin;
- The kinetic electro-acoustic sculptures of key *Soundwaves* mentor Max Eastley, as featured previously at the Hayward Gallery's *Sonic Boom*;
- Martin Riches' robotic and kinetic sound machines;
- A phonetic theremin by Michael Markert and a body theremin by Dianne Harris;
- Moveable receiving and transmitting sculptural forms by Julie Freeman;
- An knock-box installation by Andy Huntington;
- New work by soundtoys.net artist Archangel Constantini.

Alongside the exhibition will be a programme of performances, presentations and talks that delve further into the exploration of sound and aural experiences. Performances will include Jake Ewen's presentation 'Cymatic planet' in which he explores sacred geometry through sound and matter, a presentation by Alex Zivanovic of the work of pioneering artist/engineer Edward Ihnatowicz - creator of the first Sound Automated Mobile (first shown at Cybernetic Serendipity 1969 ICA) and a presentation by Sound: Space inventor Rolf Gehlhaar.

LAUNCH EVENT:

As well as the private view, a launch event will take place on **Friday 18th May** from 6pm – 11pm featuring demonstrations, performances and presentations by Soundwaves artists and special guests. Entry: £5 (£4 concs).

TALKS:

Wednesday May 23rd, 6pm: Early Cybernetic Sculptures: The Senster and SAM

Alex Zivanovic will talk about the work of the late Edward Ihnatowicz, a pioneer of interactive kinetic art. In particular, he will concentrate on SAM, or 'Sound Activated Mobile', a sculpture exhibited at the Cybernetic Serendipity exhibition in 1968, and the Senster, exhibited in the Evoluon in Eindhoven from 1970 to 1974. Both sculptures moved recognisably in response to the sound and motion of the people around them, giving the impression of being alive. The talk will explain how this was achieved and what we can learn from these ground-breaking works. In particular, Alex will talk about how natural, elegant motion can be achieved.

Wednesday May 30th, 6pm: Soundwaves Commissioned Artists

Andy Huntington, Michael Markert and Julie Freeman talk about their work and share their artistic philosophies and approaches to working with sound. Introduced and chaired by Dr. Richard Barbrook.

Wednesday June 6th, 6pm: Greatest Hits From the Future of Sound

Martyn Ware, 80s pop icon as co-founder of Heaven 17 and The Human League, introduces a selection of sonic artists as featured on the recent 'Future Of Sound' UK tour showcasing leading practitioners in the fields of music and audiovisual design including Robin Rimbaud a.k.a Scanner, Tal Rosner and Ed Cookson of The Sancho Plan.

Wednesday June 13th, 6pm: Jake Ewen – 'Cymatic Planet'

Jake Ewen discusses the study of Cymatics – the formative influence that sound has over matter.

Wednesday June 20th, 6pm: Audio Modification

Brian Duffy (Modified Toy Orchestra) and DJ Tendraw & The Gypsies Dog (Gluerooms, ERM on Resonance fm) present their unique approaches to investigating the hidden potential of electronic circuits in children's musical toys and the repurposing, often quite messily, of analogue electronic hardware to create a palette of otherwise unheard sounds and musicality. (See Performances for details of the Rob Mullender & Lee Patterson performance at 8pm the same evening.)

Saturday June 23rd 2-5pm: Aura: The Stuff Around the Stuff Around You

Probably the best metaphor for an aura sound world is to imagine walking through an array of invisible audio speakers suspended in space. Each speaker represents a sound node and emits different audio depending on where you, the user, is situated in relation to it. The sounds appear to act like real sounds in the real world. Steve Symons invites you play with his aura software and create your own 3D audio worlds using GPS enabled PDAs.

Wednesday June 27th, 6PM: Rolf Gehlhaar & Luis Girao – 'Sound=Space'

SOUND=SPACE is an electronic musical instrument that is played - by one person or several at the same time - by moving around in an empty space. It consists of a system of ultrasonic sensors - an ultrasonic echo location system - that very accurately picks up the positions and movement of people within the space, linked to a computer and a synthesiser and/or sampler that produces sounds accordingly. The effect is like walking or moving some part of your body across imaginary keyboards which are spread around the floor of a room. Inventor Rolf Gehlhaar will present the history, concepts and technology behind Sound:Space to our audience at Kinetica- accompanied by Luis Girao.

PERFORMANCES:

Sunday June 10th, 6pm: Pierre Bastien

Pierre Bastien (born Paris, 1953) post-graduated in eighteenth-century French literature at University Paris-Sorbonne. In 1977 he built his first musical machinery and for the past decade has developed many variations of a mechanical orchestra. Since 1987 he has concentrated on it through solo performances, sound installations, recordings and collaborations with artists such as Pierrick Sorin, Karel Doing, Jean Weinfeld, Robert Wyatt and Issey Miyake. Pierre Bastien will be presenting a one-off live-performance at Kinetica.

<http://www.pierrebastien.com>

Wednesday June 20th, 8pm: Rob Mullender & Lee Patterson

Rob Mullender has devised a contemporary version of the 'photophonic sound synthesiser', the Soviet-invented, Skriabin-inspired machine for turning light into sound.

EXHIBITION DETAILS

About Kinetica

Kinetica, the UK's first museum dedicated to kinetic, electronic and experimental art, is situated within a new building over two floors in Old Spitalfields Market, East London. This building was provided through generous sponsorship from Ballymore properties Ltd. The project was brokered by Futurecity and has attracted a major award from Arts Council England. Ballymore Properties Ltd and Kinetica Museum Ltd have received an investment from Arts & Business New Partners to develop their creative partnership.

Admission: FREE

Address: Kinetica, SP2 Pavilion, Old Spitalfields Market, E1 6AA

Nearest Tube: Liverpool St / Aldgate East

Public enquiries: 0207 377 9674

Website: www.kinetica-museum.org

Opening hours: Wednesday – Sunday: 11am to 6pm (Closed Monday/Tuesday)

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