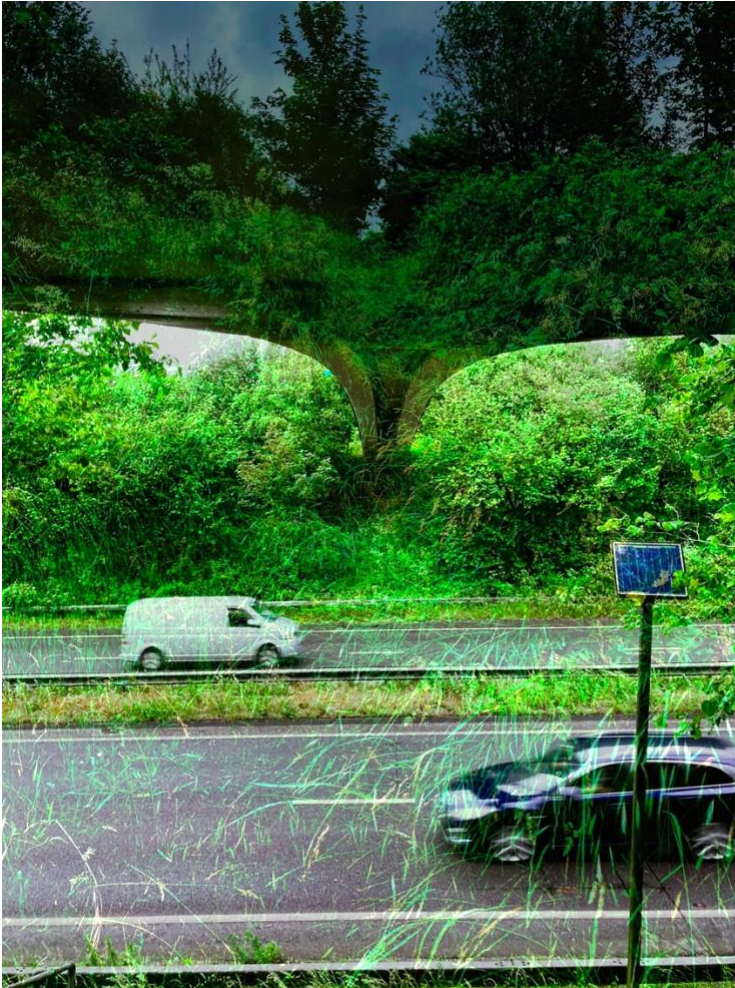


Integrated Soundscapes: Brighton



WORK SYNOPSIS:

Eight Ways of Hearing: Soundscape as Dialectical Image (2021) is a series of location recordings, highlighting pairs of opposites that exist in the sound environment. The work is inspired by Walter Benjamin's enigmatic concept: the dialectical image, as described in *The Arcades Project* manuscripts (1934). Through the juxtaposition, montage and superimposition of the sound sources, the variations embody a surrealist perspective of space and place. Additionally, each composition consists of combining multiple points of audition between two or more locations, creating a multivalent image of place in simultaneity. Each piece centers around one or more preconceived oppositional tensions determined by the artist. Examples include temporal categorizations such as day vs. night, conceptual oppositions such as noise vs. music, or in more metaphorical ways, a polarized human response to the Covid 19 pandemic. Within each soundscape additional tensions may be explored within the physicality and spatialization of the sounds themselves. Resulting relationships become inextricably linked into an inseparable whole. These imagined landscapes of sound form a dream image interpretation of the world manifested through the raw materiality of sound. Akin to the art critic John Berger's analysis of landscape as a way of seeing, *Eight Ways of Hearing: Soundscape as Dialectical Image* presents soundscape beyond its mechanical representation into a way of hearing.

TRACK LISTING:

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| 1. South Downs vs. Seafront Tunnel (Vertical Soundscape) | 6:56 |
| 2. Kemptown vs. Church (Covid 19 response) | 8:34 |
| 3. Saint Bartholemew's Church Interior/exterior | 6:26 |
| 4. Peace Park vs. Pavilion Park (Music or Noise / Noise or Music) | 13:08 |
| 5. A27 vs. Patcham Woodlands (Traffic x2) | 7:37 |
| 6. A27 + High and Over Dawn Chorus Integration | 23:28 |
| 7. Queens Park Day / Night Part I | 25:00 |
| 8. Queens Park Day / Night Part II | 24:46 |

Total Time 1:55:54

1. South Downs vs. Seafrost Tunnel (Vertical Soundscape) 6:56

South Downs vs. Seafrost Tunnel features a juxtaposition of the open air of the South Downs against the semi enclosed walking tunnel from Regency Square onto the Brighton Beachfront. The work highlights the characteristic reverb from shotgun blasts in open space and skateboard tricks from inside a tunnel.

Sound Source Locations:

- South Downs National Park
- Regency Square: Tunnel and Beachfront

Keynote Sounds:

- South Downs National Park sounds consists of sheep enclosure with water trough, geese, cows chewing grass, Spitfire plane performing aerial stunts, skylarks in fields, clay pigeon shooters (Polowood Shooting Ground).
- Regency Square Tunnel and Beachfront consists of a restaurant music soundtrack (CeCe Peniston, *Finally*) skateboarders pulling tricks, passing traffic from A259 filtered through the tunnel, a crushed beer can, high heeled plus soft soled footsteps.

2. **Kemptown vs. Church (Covid 19 response) 8:34**

Kemptown vs Church is a look at human behavior in response to the Covid 19 pandemic. It is styled in quick-edit montage fashion and compares inebriated young revelers after pub closing with the older community attending a high Sunday mass at Saint Bartholemew's Church.

Sound Source Locations:

- St. James Street, Kemptown.
- Saint Bartholomew's Church, Brighton

Keynote sounds:

- St James Street: Coop Supermarket Kiosk, Brighton and Hove Buses, cars, self-propelled scooter, young drunken pub patrons. car stereo.
- St. Barts: Interior church bells, liturgy readings/homily, pipe organ and vocals, elderly church patron conversation, paper shuffling, chair creaking, breathing, coughing.

3. Saint Bartholemew's Church Interior/exterior 6:26

St. Bartholomew's Church Interior / exterior is a soundscape that features an imagined soundscape in two halves with a short overlap at midpoint. It is composed of the interior and exterior space of St. Bartholomews Church, combining multiple layers of organ music and a neighborhood seagull chorus.

Sound Source Locations:

- Interior of St Bart's church
- Surrounding neighborhood of St. Barts Church

Keynote Sounds:

- Interior sound consists of 1906 Morgan and Smith Pipe organ and vocalist. Ambient noise contains congregation entering and filling the rows: chair creaking, paper shuffling, coughing, church bells etc.
- Exterior sound consists of a gull congregation, passing automobile, ambulance siren, microphone interference (wind and handling). Pavement freshly wet from rain.

4. Peace Park vs. Pavilion Park (Music or Noise / Noise or Music) 13:08

Peace Park vs. Pavilion Park is a soundscape that compares two sources of sound that many of us chose to ignore in the urban environment. It asks the question: what do we consider music, what do we consider noise? More than this it examines the opposing tensions of foreground/background and is a homage to the treatment of sound as physical material in nuanced detail.

Sound Source Locations:

- Dorset Gardens Peace Park
- Pavilion Park.

Keynote Sounds:

- Dorset Gardens Peace Park Construction sounds consists of (bandsaw or sander), hammering, car traffic, airplane, ambulance, motorcycles.
- Pavilion Park sounds consist of ukulele busker, songbirds, baby stroller, in and out conversation, wind noise.

Intro dialogue between fellow buskers at Pavilion Park:

Busker's friend (left channel): "you alright?"

Featured busker (right channel): "Hey"

Busker's friend: "Have you just started?"

Featured busker: "Uh, I've been here about (pause)... like ten, fifteen minutes"

Busker's friend: "yeah?"

Featured busker: "so, I'll probably be like another half an hour"

Busker's friend: "yeah"

Featured busker: "unintelligible"

Busker's friend: "Find somewhere shady for a while"

Featured busker: "Yeah definitely"

Busker's friend: "Cheers"

5. A27 vs. Patcham Woodlands (Traffic x2) 13:08

A27 vs. Patcham Woodlands presents anthrophony and biophony as two forms of traffic. Human beings traveling in vehicles are contrasted and compared with the movement of a colony of jackdaws. The work highlights directionality and movement patterns – the rapid passing of cars in varying directions and the slower mass migration of jackdaws from the left to the right stereo channel.

Sound Source Locations:

- Hwy A27 Underpass, highway overpass footbridge
- Surrounding Patcham park landscape.

Keynote Sounds:

Vehicular high-speed traffic, jackdaw communication, various songbirds.

6. A27 + High and Over Dawn Chorus Integration 23:38

The A27 High and Over Dawn Chorus Integration consists of three sections: The first is a conglomeration of intense high-volume traffic from A27. The second section features an extended dawn chorus as it naturally plays out close to real time. The third section integrates highway traffic with the dawn chorus using *convolution reverb*. This is achieved here by taking sample waveforms of passing cars and filtering sections of the dawn chorus through them to digitally simulate the reverberation of that space and sonic shape of vehicular sound itself.

Sound Source Locations:

- Hwy A27 Underpass
- High and Over Cuckmere Landscape, South Downs National Park.

Keynote Sounds:

- Hwy sounds include vehicular high-speed traffic, adjacent wood pigeons
- High and Over sounds include songbirds, waterfowl, sheep and cattle.

7. Queens Park Day/Night Part I 25:00

The Queens Park Day/Night I soundscape contrasts the sonic activity of Queens Park during the early afternoon and late evenings. The first section of daytime is filled with a dense mixture of biophony, anthrophony and geophony (pond water splashing). Each minute is punctuated with the quintessential keynote sound of the clock tower bell. This is echoed in reverse during the second half, highlighting the sparse, spacious soundscape on a calm evening.

Sound Source Locations:

- Queens Park daytime
- Queens Park nighttime

Keynote Sounds:

- Daytime: Pigeons cooing and wing beats, gulls, gatepost slamming, playground, clocktower bells, traffic, pond, songbirds
- Nighttime: Duck chatter, distant vehicle traffic, group conversations, reversed clocktower bells, water ripples along dock, gatepost creaking.

8. Queens Park Day/Night Part II 24:46

The Queens Park Day/Night II soundscape contrasts the sonic activity of Queens Park during the early afternoon and late evenings. The first section of daytime focuses on human activity, community service workers and tennis players. Nighttime is contrasted with a solitary individual kicking a football. Every minute is punctuated with the quintessential keynote sound of the clock tower bell. This is echoed in reverse during the second half, highlighting the sparse, spacious soundscape on a calm evening.

Sound Source Locations:

- Queens Park daytime
- Queens Park nighttime

Keynote Sounds:

- Daytime Community workers “magnet fishing” and interview. tennis match, pigeons, gulls, gatepost, playground, clocktower bells (forward), traffic, airplanes, songbirds,
- Nighttime: duck chatter, human chatter, solitary individual playing football, gatepost creaking.