

SPECTRAL ecologies: wave-length

We set out to construct a series of simple physical studies at the crossing point of sound and radio, of light,

pursuing the clue of wave length,

the extent of any supposed wave, the chalked diagram which haunted a workshop space more dominated by experienced phenomena.

Wavelength, a property of distance, of space, architecture became apparent in the domed observatory, within its size and scale, a structure for observation at a distance, a cold and fogged moon telescope on the last evening.

A wave length walked and staked out in the long, wet grass surrounding the observatory, to be later wired up and activated, amplified and observed, the five of us sharing a single pair of headphones. This lengthy earth antenna was perhaps able to pick up the jerked-rope sparks generated by our car ignition coil apparatus and transmitter, the very first experiment. The contrast with the indoor pickup, a plastic tube of iron powder constructing itself as the most simple receiver when the signal hits, is evident, forming a program for the three day workshop; experiments formulated and assembled in the interior were brought outside the dome for further play.

Simple hand made oscillators were hung from elements of exterior metal structure, a wheelchair ramp, in this experimental garden, resonances of these handled tubes indicating scales and ears. Circuits were introduced outside to tree sap, a squealed singing, and inside to exotic fruits at higher frequencies. A small piece of Iceland spar picked up from the friendly Mill's shop refracted a double play with carriers, voices, the light hitting corn starch smearing Lissajous figures across the walls and ceiling of the room, mirroring the mechanical, pierced light planetarium set up in the back room; a junk shop speaker on a diet of salt and sines vomiting orange-dyed standing waves.

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