

Notes to my work

The possible manifestations of physical space and social context define the site-specific qualities of my work. To make a unique work in a given space makes it compulsory to engage a custom strategy to fit that specific situation in order to issue- and to unfold the distinctive qualities of that space.

"Acousmatic listening": Field-recordings of common sounds are being lifted out of its original context and implemented in a new one, by example of an installation. These are architectonic constructions, especially made for the physical experience of sound. Each installation features a soundtrack or composition of previously recorded sounds. The presence of an audience is integrated as part of the work.

Phenomena are being part of the idiom of which my work communicates with, other than being the content of my work.

An initial engagement of my work is being determined by the perception. The 'being' of particular spatial, visual or acoustical interventions - or a combination of those - discloses the deeper complexity of the work.

The dialogue in between the condition (place, circumstances, biases, etc) and me is the motive of the artistic research.

I issue what 'place' is, which kind of reality it represents in the understanding of the residents, audiences or users. Often this is in conjunction with matters from economy and history. I look for the appropriate terms to make a possible artistic intervention relevant.

My work is interdisciplinary in the fields of composed sound, architecture, video and performance. I exhibit installations in museums, art-spaces and galleries, make interventions, sometimes commissioned, in public space, perform concerts in clubs, art-spaces and festivals, release CD- and vinyl-albums, sometimes cooperate with choreographers and other artists, and occasionally curate exhibitions and releases with other artists and thinkers.

"One has to register the investigative imagination of Paul Devens as the active paradigm of investigation associated with the field named sound art. Devens is sailing from sound art, yet his works exhibit a wide range of interests that go beyond mere sonic qualities of sound objects. In his works he intervenes in the urban realm, with an interest in both the physical and social aspects. He employs techniques of architectural production carefully selected from the inventory of shaping physical environment, as well as historical and political re-discoveries. Custom-made objects and creations lie at the core of some of other interventions as well as video projections. Some of these works try to capture or re-capture a social reality, and try to achieve a synthesis of sorts: sometimes one of facilitated and augmented, and sometimes one of a derived nature." - Emre Erkal, in Waving Platforms (Onomatopoe #91).