

Membranes

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1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

text driven performance & installation, 2017

Exploring the boundaries where music and language overlap, they use hybrid instruments – constructed from drum-skins and electronic components – as devices to turn written texts into pulses of light and percussive sound. As each machine translation emerges, the network of instruments starts to share the texts, transforming written material into aesthetic, visual and sonic patterns, for the performers and spectators to further interact with. Extrapolating from the example of the African talking drum, Membranes builds up an altogether new kind of tone language, constantly shifting and adapting itself before the viewer and performers alike.

The instruments form a reactive network of semantic and aesthetic actors: a play of forms, light and sound unfolds between them. Following historical archetypes musical communication instruments and seeking to create a speculative acoustic interaction space, this audio-visual installation and performance offers a new alternative communication environment.



Fig. 1. Membranes

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In its installation form, the work shows sentences generated by an algorithm which analyzes a database of various theoretical texts about the relation between music and language. A dialogue between the independent object-instruments takes place and establishes a network of dead agents – transformed algorithms – that testify both to a form of communication that is historically rooted in a cultural tradition and a hypothetical language spoken in a world after the Web's demise.

Performances & Exhibitions of Membranes:

- 01.2020 The Dead Web – Ludwig Musée – Budapest (HU) 05.2019 Mapping Festival – Geneva (CH)
- 04.2019 Mirage Festival – Lyon (F)
- 09.2018 Retune Festival – Berlin (D)
- 11.2017 Dark Circuits Festival –
- Knockdown Center – New York (US)
- 11.2017 Die Digitale – Düsseldorf (D)
- 11.2017 mex festival – Dortmund (D)
- 11.2017 Sonica – Tramway – Glasgow (GB)
- 10.2017 Walcheturm – Zürich (CH)
- 09.2017 Schillerpalais – Berlin (D)

2 PERFORMANCE NOTES

The piece needs 30-45 minutes to set up.

If we can have a technical crew of 1 or 2 people, the set up will be faster, it would be possible to set up in 20-25 minutes.

For the performance we would use a PA.

We need 2 small tables for the performance.

3 MEDIA LINKS

- Video: <https://vimeo.com/388536061/000b0399b6>

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