Claudia Robles-
Angel

www.claudearobles.de

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I. Performances & Installations with Biomedical Signals
Butoh, a modern expressive dance-form developed in Japan in the 1960s, describes the cycle of birth, life and death. This is also a central theme in this particular work by Claudia Robles-Angel. Hereewith the artist experiments with improvisation, time, space, rhythm, dynamics and form.

In SEED|TREE feelings, associations, mental images and spontaneous impulses are the starting point for the creation of stories, games, and choreography.

The installation-performance consists of a forest environment created by some panels projected by close-up images from tree cortices and human skin. There are two types of interactivity in sound: the performers have microphones and EMG (Electromyography) electrodes attached to their bodies. The breathing and heartbeat of two of the performers produce sounds that are continuously modified by the muscular tension of a third dancer.

The second type of interactivity is that between the installation space and the visitors. During the performance, visitors can walk freely around the virtual forest. There is a video observing the installation space and the movement of the visitors influences the video projections. The results are instantaneous creations, expressions of the moment, with image, movement and music forming living signs in space.

Created during an ‘artist in residence’ program at the ZKM Centre for Art and Media Karlsruhe, Germany.

Produced by: ZKM – Institute for Music and Acoustics

Performers: Sarah Baumert, Maggie Bergeron, Jay Elfring, Tejo Janssen, Nora Jenneman, Toma so Marchi, Tobias Schmalfuß and Hubert Weiss

Online video: https://icem.folkwang-uni.de/~robles/works_media/seed_tree/SeedTreeStream.mp4
Three Butoh dancers perform the process of a seed growing to become a tree. The movements of the dancers are very slow and expressive, a product of their own imagination during the performance.

There is a continuous feedback between the dancers and the media, while the installation space itself becomes aware of the visitors and reacts according to their movements.
The name of this project is inspired by the expression of the self, turning the subject’s imagination from the inside to the outside. The performance is therefore about the materialisation of the performer’s thoughts and feelings on the stage.

In the performance, imagination becomes spatial. The stage is a place for the appearance of the invisible. The performer, who is surrounded by sound and images, interacts with them using an EEG (Electroencephalogram) interface, which measures the performer’s brain activity.

Those sounds and images – already stored in the computer – are modified consequently by the brain data via MAX/MSP-Jitter. Hence, the performer determines how those combinations will be revealed to the audience. Images are projected to a screen and also onto the performer, while sounds are projected in surround.

Online video:
https://icem.folkwang-uni.de/~robles/works_media/insideout/INsideOUT_excerpt_01.mov

Created during an ‘artist in residence’ program at the KHM Academy of Media Arts Cologne – Art and Media Studies, Germany.

Credits:
Lasse Scherffig, Martin Nawrath – Lab3-KHM (Technical support), María Andrea Umaña, Juan Diego Ramírez (Dress Design)
»For the performance of INsideOUT, I have tried to train my brain in order to control the media combinations on the stage, putting in evidence different emotional and mental states, which cannot be achieved without the input of data coming from my own brain waves. However, this conscious control is not completely attained due to the uncontrollable stream of varied feelings, which arise under such circumstances.«
SKIN is an interactive installation, introduced to an audience in two parts: the first part is a performance, in which a performer interacts with sounds and images using a GSR (Galvanic Skin Response) interface, in order to create the audiovisual environment.

The second part is an interactive installation, in which visitors have the opportunity to use the GSR interface, which measures their skin's moisture. The variations of these values are an indication of psychological or physiological arousal, such as, for example the appearance of stress or relaxation.

The values received from the GSR are further transmitted to a computer in order to transform the sound and the images of the interactive space. Visitors are therefore invited to create an audiovisual environment from their own emotional and physiological parameters.

SKIN is a reflection about metamorphosis, in this case, inspired by the natural moulting process of skin change. The visual environment is created by close-up and microscopic photos from the performer's skin recorded in real-time and the sound environment is transformed by the performers emotional state measured through her skin's moisture values.

INSTALLATION: Online video: https://vimeo.com/151437285

PERFORMANCE: Online video: https://icem.folkwang-uni.de/~robles/downloads/SKIN_doku/Skin_h264_dv.mp4

The first version was conceived and developed during an artist in residence invitation by the 2580 Association in Romania (Cluj-Napoca) during the "Liquid spaces – dynamic models of space in art and technology", organised by 2580 Association.

Credits (2013): Monica Postolache (supported by 2580 Association) and Margit Koch (Dress Design)
»I'm interested in making the human body visual and audible through digital media. We normally don't hear or perceive our body, and this work is a way of making us aware of it and to enhance its potential as a visual and musical instrument.«
Online article:

»In the installation, people experience mostly red colours and high frequencies because the space is openly reflecting their inner states.«
»Visitors realise about their calmness when they either see on the screens the first blue line or when the blue line grows bigger. Blue is the colour which identifies a calm state.«
WEB-MINDSCAPE is an interactive audiovisual environment, created by light and octophonic sound, in which visitors have the opportunity to use an EEG interface, which measures their brain waves. The installation makes visual and audible unconscious internal reactions that are produced in the subject in front of an external impulse (in this particular case, tweets sent either by the audience or coming from the outside.

This installation has been made possible thanks to the support of the IK Stichting and of the Institute of Musicology – University of Cologne

Online video: https://vimeo.com/225400078
ZHONG is a search towards the CENTER, discovering a universe of constant and eternal modification, a world driven by the dynamic created through opposite fighting forces. The expression and symbol of this eternal transformation is fire, from which the multiplicity of the world is formed. “The fire comes from a central flame – it burns from inside out. The fire is a unique phenomenon that can clear everything up. Just as everything that changes slowly lets itself clear up through life, everything that changes quickly lets itself clear up through the fire” After Gaston Bachelard, The Psychoanalysis of Fire, Paris, Edited by Gallimard, 1938.

Installation for one video channel and surround sound. Online video: https://vimeo.com/channels/748333/111601350
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In Là-bas… (There…) the artist Claudia Robles-Angel provides an installation focussing on the transition from light to darkness, interweaving sound and silence. Là-bas… can hardly be consumed in an instant while passing by. Every visitor should consciously access and experience this work. The first step into the unknown leads the audience out of the world – into the dark. Immersed in the heavy blackness of the first room in the installation, the spectator is deprived of any sense of orientation. Spatial proportions disappear in the darkness and in the humming sound. Body and spirit adapt to the new environment. A transformation ensues. Where it will lead to, is up to each individual self. After all, Là-bas… offers sufficient space to accommodate your own world of thoughts within the installation. Finding your own place between bright and dark, noise and silence.

The artist used phosphorescent material for the visual elements of the installation, creating structures in direct contrast to the quadrophonic sound collage that surrounds the audience without providing a grip. From the mix of voices, words, sounds and fragments we hear an indistinguishable murmur, only occasionally interrupted by a poem written by the artist. During these resting points the installation is filled with light, until the rooms sink into darkness again and only the glowing material itself can promise some stability and orientation.

Excerpt text by Daniel Mennicken from ON Neue Musik Köln
MINDSCAPE is an interactive performance, created by EL wire and sound, in which the artist interacts with the audiovisual environment using an EEG (electroencephalogram) interface, which measures her brain activity.

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LEIKHĒN is an audiovisual installation, created for and during an artist in residence at the Immersive Lab at ICST Zurich. It is inspired by the composite plant of lichen (from Greek: leikhēn), which is the result of a hybrid partnership between a fungus and an alga. The installation is therefore a reflection upon the interaction and mutualistic relationship between two organisms, and how this union impacts on their behaviours inside a created audiovisual immersive space.

It consists basically of two types of participants: the central figure or host, sitting in the middle of the panoramic video space, whose brainwaves’ values are collected via an EEG interface in order to influence the sonic environment; the second type of participant is represented by the guest(s), visitors who, by touching the screens, influence the host’s emotional states through to the tactile transducers that are attached to the chair where the host is seated and consequently, also the audiovisual environment.

Online video (this video requires a password):
https://vimeo.com/275052088

Password: leikhen_CRA

Created during an artist in residence at the Institute for Computer Music Sound Technology ZHdK University of the Arts Zurich, Switzerland
Based on Deleuze's words: “The map is open and connectable in all of its dimensions; it is detachable, reversible, susceptible to constant modification”, the KONFLUENTÎA II project by Claudia Robles Angel produces imaginary cartographies from the experimentation and analysis of satellite pictures of the cities of Bogotá and Cologne.

The new maps achieved by Claudia Robles discover spaces of convergence implicit in the vigilance and observation of a modern world permanently monitored and digitalized.

Online video excerpt: https://vimeo.com/179991831

-Bogotá / Cologne-
ZHONG is a search towards the CENTER, discovering a universe of constant and eternal modification, a world driven by the dynamic created through opposite fighting forces.

The expression and symbol of this eternal transformation is fire, from which the multiplicity of the world is formed.

“The fire comes from a central flame – it burns from inside out. The fire is a unique phenomenon that can clear everything up. Just as everything that changes slowly lets itself clear up through life, everything that changes quickly lets itself clear up through the fire” After Gaston Bachelard, The Psychoanalysis of Fire, Paris, Edited by Gallimard, 1938.

Installation for one video channel and surround sound.

Online video: https://vimeo.com/channels/748333/111601350
Videography and Sound Installation

» ZHONG

Online video: https://vimeo.com/channels/748333/111601350

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the /fire

After Gaston Bachelard, The Psychoanalysis of Fire, Paris, life, everything that changes quickly lets itself clear up through just as everything that changes slowly lets itself clear up through

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DIGITAL INTAGLIO / AUDIO-VISUAL INSTALLATION

Online video excerpt: https://vimeo.com/176774060

the original soundscape of Cologne.

The sonic element of this composition was composed using to be seen through their opaque and /fictitious thickness »

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This audiovisual composition shows the transformation from

Created during an exchange between artist in residence: Art Bogotá - MAC - Museum of Contemporary Kulturamt Köln and Supported by: 

ON Neue Musik Köln

Produced by: ON Neue Musik and Commissioned by: North Rhine-Westphalia Culture and Sport of Children, Youth, Supported by: 

LÀ-BAS... (There)

Excerpt text by Daniel Mennicken from ON Neue Musik Köln material itself can promise some stability and orientation.

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During these resting points the installation is /filled with light,

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HINEIN (inwards) is an invitation to travel inside the world of natural microstructures, combining subtle sounds and extreme close-up images of diverse natural surfaces whose micro-dimensions are not perceived in our daily life.

Both visual and auditory layers of the composition suggest the idea of a tactile/haptic feeling, inviting the audience to use their eyes/ears also to feel and not only to see/listen to, based on the following words by French philosopher Deleuze: 'Where there is close vision, space is not visual, or rather the eye itself has a haptic, non optical function: no line separates earth from sky, which are of the same substance; there is neither horizon nor background nor perspective nor limit nor outline or form nor center; there is no intermediary distance, or all distance is intermediary.'

Installation for one video channel and surround sound.

online video:  https://vimeo.com/200334611
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Installation for one video channel and surround sound.
Online video: https://vimeo.com/channels/748333/111601350

This audiovisual composition shows the transformation from old plans of the city of Cologne transformed into an imaginary map obtained from the convergence of natural structures such as tree branches and a new satellite image of the city inspired by the following quote by Italo Calvino in the book Invisible Cities. "…. and in his dreams now cities light as kites appear, pierced cities like laces, cities transparent as mosquito netting, cities like leaves’ veins, cities lined like a hand’s palm, filigree cities to be seen through their opaque and fictitious thickness »

The sonic element of this composition was composed using the original soundscape of Cologne.
Online video excerpt: https://vimeo.com/176774060
Cologne: transformations

DIGITAL INTAGLIO / AUDIO-VISUAL INSTALLATION

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Installation for one video channel and surround sound.

online video: https://vimeo.com/200334611
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Installation for one video channel and surround sound. Online video: https://vimeo.com/200334611
Claudia Robles-Angel is an audiovisual and new media artist born in Bogotá-Colombia, currently living in Cologne-Germany and active worldwide. Her work and research cover different aspects of visual and sound art, which extend from audiovisual fixed-media compositions to performances interacting with biomedical signals via the usage of interfaces such as, for example, the EEG (electroencephalogram, measuring brain waves activity).

She finished studies in Fine Arts in 1990 at the University J. T. Lozano in Bogotá (CO). She pursued postgraduate studies such as: Film Animation (1992-1993) at the CFP (Milan); MFA in (1993-1995) at the Ecole Supérieure d’Art Visuel / HEAD (Geneva- Switzerland) and Sound Art / Electronic Composition at the Folkwang University Essen (Germany).

She has been artist-in-residence in several outstanding institutions, for example at ZKM Center (Karlsruhe), the KHM (Cologne) and more recently at the ICST – ZHdK in Zurich.

Her work has been presented in festivals and in group and solo exhibitions around the globe, for example, the ZKM Center in Karlsruhe; Enter3 in Prague, at the European Capitals of Culture Luxembourg and Romania; KIBLA Multimedia Centre in Maribor; at the ICMC in Copenhagen, Montréal and Utrecht; at the Skulpturenmuseum Glaskasten Marl, the SIGGRAPH Asia in Yokohama, ESPACIO Fundación Telefónica in Buenos Aires, the New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival NYCEMF in 2010 and every year since 2013; the SIGGRAPH Asia in Yokohama; the Re-New Festival in Copenhagen; the NIME Conference in Oslo; ISEA - International Symposium on Electronic Art 2011 Istanbul, 2017 Manizales and 2018 Durban, at LEAP Space for media Art in Berlin, CMMR Marseille and Plymouth, at CAMP Festival – Salon Suisse, an official collateral event of the 55th Venice Biennale; at the Audio Art Festival Cracow, at Harvestworks Digital Media Arts Center New York City, at SKOP Festival Frankfurt, at Nabta Art Center Cairo, Museum of Contemporary Art Bogotá, MADATAC in Madrid, IK Stichting in Vlissingen, at Die Digitale Düsseldorf, Sonic Visions Tübingen, and more recently at - ADAF Athens Digital Art Festival.
These artworks have been performed and exhibited at:

**SEED|TREE**
- Kubus-ZKM - Centre for Art and Media Karlsruhe (Germany) 2005
- Gerngesehen Festival. Venues at Muenster, Cologne and Berlin (Germany) 2005
- Piemonte Share Festival. Torino (Italy) 2006
- SPARK Festival of Electronic Music and Art. Ted Mann Concert Hall. Minneapolis (USA) 2007

**INsideOUT**
- SIGGRAPH Asia 2009. Yokohama (Japan) 2009
- KYUSHU University. Fukuoka (Japan) 2009
- 12 NIGHTS - ELECTRONIC MUSIC AND ART University of Miami’s CAS Art Gallery Miami (USA) 2009
- Festival Internacional de la Imagen Manizales (Colombia) 2009
- Nocturnes - Much More Rumors Concert - KHM Academy of Media Arts. Cologne (Germany) 2010
- Music and Science Department. University of Cologne. Cologne (Germany) 2010
- MEX Festival. Kunsthau Dortmund (Germany) 2010
- ESPACIO Fundación Telefónica. Buenos Aires (Argentina) 2010
- Symposium Video in Space. University of Applied Sciences. Krefeld (Germany) 2011
- LEAP - Space for Media Art. Berlin (Germany) 2012
- Imaginary Worlds Concert series - Hull University. Scarborough (UK) 2013

**SKIN – INSTALLATION**
- Cluj-Napoca Tailor’s Tower 2012
- Audioart Festival. Bunkier Sztuki Gallery, Krakow (Poland) 2013
- Imagespassages - En Résonance avec la Biennale de Lyon. Point Commun. Annecy (France) 2013
- Lortzing ART Gallery Hannover (Germany) 2013
- Neues Kunstforum, Cologne (Germany) 2014
- HARVESTWORKS - Digital Media Arts Centre. New York City (USA) 2014
- NEW MEDIA FESTIVAL MIAMI 2014, THE CHILL CONCEPT, Miami (USA)

**SKIN – PERFORMANCE**
- Audioart Festival. Bunkier Sztuki Gallery, Krakow (Poland) 2013
- Chisenhale Dance Space. London (UK) 2013
- Neues Kunstforum, Cologne (Germany) 2014
- Kunstverein Linz am Rhein (Germany) 2014
- 119 Gallery Lowell (USA) 2014
- NEW MEDIA FESTIVAL MIAMI 2014, THE CHILL CONCEPT, Miami (USA)
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