

FUNKTION-ONE

NEWS

HYDROPHONICS – CAROLINE LOCKE

UNIVERSITY OF DERBY



Artist and Senior Lecturer in Fine Art Caroline Locke makes large-scale Installations, working and combining both old and new technologies. She has been sending sound vibrations through water.

Caroline Locke's current research was recently exhibited within the Faculty of Art Design and Technology. The Inventory of sounds consists of microscopic images that were obtained whilst sending different sounds through water.

Fountain II is a replica of The Maastricht Sound Fountain. The work was funded by The Open Studio Research Centre with sponsorship from Olympus Ltd.

The first prototypes of Locke's new 'Sound Fountains' were developed when connections were made with the signal processing applications research group within the school of technology at the University of Derby UK. The artist experimented with speakers, wave generators and pitch shifters, designing special units to house separate speaker canopy's underneath steel tanks containing water.

Locke received an award for excellence in research for a live performance where musician's instruments were connected to water tanks so that the sound waves were visible on the water surface. The audience were able to watch and listen to sonic compositions based on the sight of the sound.

Working with industry partners and sponsors of her work Funktion One Research Ltd she redesigned speaker configurations for a permanent sound sculpture. The Maastricht Sound Fountain was installed in the courtyard of the new School of Governance commissioned by Maastricht University. The



fountains are produced using the sounds of the student's voices.

Sound Fountain II is the artist's most recent project. Sound waves move through the water allowing the spectator to experience the sight of sound. The sculpture travels to Neerpelt in Belgium in June where it will be exhibited as part of a series of sound Installations alongside the 'Klankenbos' park. Klankenbos is a permanent collection of sound sculptures in the open air, accommodated at the provincial Domein Dommelhof at Neerpelt and unique in Europe.



"I appreciate theories that state that everything in the universe has a frequency at which it vibrates. I have been examining 'things' and their particular frequencies. I watch as 'things' drift, move, change and trigger other activities - nothing rests completely.

I make artworks that involve a certain kind of energy. This energy passes from one object to another object and from one object to a person. This is the stuff of life - everything shifts and moves and shuffles. It is all fairly chaotic but, in the midst of this chaos sometimes one finds an uncanny sense of order. This I find interesting.

By sending sound vibrations through water - I'm exploring vibrations and wave forms on the water surface. In the beginning I looked at the sound of my heart beating and later more closely at the wave forms of different musical instruments.

A live performance was staged where musician's instruments were hooked up to water tanks so that the sound waves were visible on the water surface. The audience were able to watch and listen to sonic compositions based on the sight of the sound.

The Maastricht Sound Fountain was installed in the courtyard of the new School of Governance at Maastricht University - the fountains were produced using the sounds of the student's voices.

More recently I have been using stereomicroscopy to photograph different sound samples sent through my water tanks." - Caroline Locke January 2010

More information can be found at:
http://www.carolinelocke.org/sound_hydro.htm



Article courtesy of The University of Derby