

Project Room # 2 – RainZonanceS 3

Duration: 3-30 July 2010

General coordination: Yiannis Toumazis

Project coordination: Andre Zivanaris

Official sponsor: Ministry of Education and Culture, Cultural Services

Following the grand success of the exhibition “Miro of Majorca”, the Nicosia Municipal Arts Centre, associated with the Pierides Foundation, continues the scanning (detection) of the Cypriot Art landscape with the Project Room #2.

With the Project Room, which began in 2009, the Centre puts forward a new “work”, a framework which derived from its own space and every time signifies a new start in the way it works.

The Project Room, each time a different place in the Old Power House, is differentiated, it acquires its own substance and it is transformed into a hatchery, an environment which promotes the synergies, the diversity and the risk. An open and flexible space, within which new and promising as well as established artists can get in touch, can communicate and exchange ideas through the already existing works, or works which will be specifically constructed for the place.

The Project Room, through alternative suggestions (discussions, theoretical presentations, exhibitions, performances *et al.*), provokes the essence, the ways in which we perceive and understand art today. The aim of the Project Room is to promote art research, the experimental expression and investigation, thus contributing in the detection of new ways in contemporary art and true involvement and comprehension of contemporary modes of the thinking.

This year Project Room # 2 invites the artists Antonis Antoniou and Paravan (Melita Couta and Haris Kafkarides) who will collaborate for RainZonances3, that is to build an installation which will present three basic elements, a soundscape environment, a platform / stage area (both in the metaphorical sense and actual) and a series of parallel events with invited artists.

RainZonanceS

Inspired by David Tudor’s milestone piece ‘Rainforest iv’, this ongoing project, founded by composer and sound artist Antonis Antoniou, aims to expose the experiential attributes of unusual spaces by primarily using sound. Each space has its own aural architecture and responds to our actions in a specific manner; has the inherent ability to affect our feelings and moods; is a ‘sponge’ of past voices, gestures and utterances. ‘RainZonanceS’ juggles with these realities. It brings out the texture, colour, tone and emotion found in extraordinary spaces, spaces of special interest, of unique character. It takes their atypical characteristics to their extremes.

RainZonanceS 3 will be hosted in NiMAC associated with the Pierides Foundation and in old Nicosia and will attempt to intervene in the existing architecture and suggest through a blurred prism other external environments.

Rainzonances3 is aiming to be a platform, which continuously changes and transforms. Every week a special event will take place with the participation of invited artists from different disciplines (sculpture, photography, performance art and music)

who will be asked to interpret in their own way and react to the thematic space of the soundscape as well as to the installations in space.

Driven by our experiences in urban spaces, experiences that are linked with the identity of the spaces, their history, social activity, physical boundaries, interaction systems and behaviour rules, we transfer and reconstruct their essence in the main hall of NIMAC. These urban experiences do not just go through a simple documentation and reconstruction but they are recreated in such a way that they present a new perspective, an altered reality, a meta-situation, beyond our established knowledge of their existence. More specifically the artists chose five public spaces with strong characteristic environments elements in order to transfer the sound environment that derives from those spaces into the Old Power House in real time. The sound will "fill up" the space through a surround system/speaker matrix, thus challenging the void of the gallery's architecture by materialising in space and creating an "invisible scenography".

Through a series of installation which will shape the gallery space every week and connect the Arts Centre with the space from which the sound comes from (i.e. the market, the church etc.), a more spherical experience is attempted between architecture and sound. Moreover, the audience is invited to act as an active or passive and the "stage" of an arena, an architectural feature that anticipates an action, a happening, a transformation. At the same time, a series of installations will be constructed every week in relation with the thematic of the soundscape and as a challenge for the invited artists to interact with.

Detaching an acoustic or any other environment from its original source, and displaying it into another (i.e. arts space), produces multiple effects, perspectives and dynamics such as dislocation, a highlighted condition worth to be observed, memory engaging, major contrasts in aural architecture principles, subconscious triggerings, educational etc.

The audience is invited to use their senses in a more balanced way and to break away from the prevailing sense of vision. As Canadian **R. Murray Schafer** (researcher of soundscapes and creator of the specific field of study) points out, there is a need, especially by westerners, to 'clean' the sense of hearing ('clairaudience') and to free it from the limiting monopoly of vision. Moreover, isolating the sense of hearing from that of vision is a way of defeating the mechanism that, according to composer Bill Fontana, listening is tightly correlated to visual cues.

Openings:

1. Saturday 3 July - 14.00

Theme: "**Vegetables and retail konfouzio**"

Invited artist: **Phanos Kyriakou**

2. Tuesday 13 July - 21.00

Theme: "**Troullos and psalm ambience**"

Invited artist: **Giorgos Ioannou**

3. Tuesday 20 July - 21.00

Theme: **“Auto - citizens”**

Invited artists: **Ariana Alphas and Pascal Caron**

Performance: **Saturday 24 July - 21.00**

4. TUESDAY 27 July - 21.00

Theme: **“With a naked ear”**

Invited artists: **Constantinos Evangelides, Colin Somervell, Lefteris Moumtzis, Euripides Dikaïos**

5. FRIDAY 30 July - 21.00

Theme: **“Groovy party time”**

Opening hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 10:00-15:00, 17:00-23:00
[Sunday and Monday closed]