

WASTELANDS COLLECTIVE

ETHEREAL THREADS

RADIO-ART Performance by the Wastelands COLLECTIVE

With Ethereal Threads, a gap between art praxes is seized by creating an art-music performance-installation through research, experiment and improvisation, merging media and communication as form and content. Historical and contemporary phenomena are considered in the work, where the intersections between nature, technology and society lead to a layered and pronounced alienating and exciting 3D wave field sound experience.

The wasteland of radio waves is the raw material for the Wastelands Collective to create an uncanny and ephemeral musical scene. They improvise with electromagnetic objets trouvés merging distinct artistic backgrounds for this unusual experimental performance, creating an acroparesthesial experience.

The artists create overlapping rhythms and melodies by tuning amateur radios and manipulating radio antennas on stage, searching for garbage sounds originating from VLF natural radio, skip-propagation, military over-the-horizon radar signals, diplomatic communication, foreign clandestine transmitters, numbers stations, unlicensed and pirate radio, ionosphere heaters, digital signals, morse code, beacons, foreign music stations and satellites.

Live singing and poetic interventions with samples from Marshall McLuhan and Walter Benjamin travel around the globe, relayed through (amateur HAM) radio stations, and return to the stage, coloured with atmospheric noises. Cello and prepared piano improvisations, hands-on tuning and modular synth manipulations bring unexpected moments, reflected by the interactive visuals on the stage. The performance also hints to female pioneers in radio astronomy and electronic synthesised sounds like —to name a few— Jocelyn Bell Burnell, Pauline Oliveros, Bebe Barron and Daphne Oram.

Ethereal Threads is performed by Philippe Druez, sound artist and engineer, Giusy Caruso, improvising on prepared piano, Heide Bertram, soprano singer and performer and Jasmijn Lootens as cellist. The holographic sound experience is produced by multichannel wave field synthesis and the Radison, a parametric ultrasonic sound beam system.

TAGS: radio-art, sound-art, HAM radio, morse, media, media theory, women, science, history, fake news, live, performance, contemporary music, experimental, improvisation, modular synthesisers, antennas, sonosphere, wave field synthesis, Ambisonics, 3D sound, VLF, HF, communication.
Official radio call: OR8DS.

Holographic sound improvisations
with short-wave radios, antennæ,
cello, voice, theremin and modular synths.
In Ambisonics and streaming on AM radio OR8DS.

Ethereal Threads

Performed live by
Philippe Druez (BE) ~ radios, synths & the Radison
Giusy Caruso (IT) ~ prepared piano
Jasmijn Lootens (BE) ~ cello & strings
Heide Bertram, (DE) ~ voice & antennas
and a Morse operator.

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/PHILIPPEDRUEZ.BE/PROJECTS/WASTELANDS/R8DS