



Photo by David Stjernholm.

george koutsouris

a strangers attractor

Is it a machine? A playground? A social experiment? 'A strangers attractor' is certainly activated by people. It requires an instinctive collective effort. You can activate it ALONE or TOGETHER with people you've never seen before, and maybe you will never see. They can say anything, you can say anything. You are protected inside the chamber, inside the cosmic egg that connects you to the world. You are free to whisper, sing or shout! You are free to be polite or aggressive. Take the chance.

You can use an avatar. They can use an avatar too. You can remain anonymous forever. Your voice will be multiplied. Echoes will arrive from different directions around you. You see yourself multiple times. And you hear yourself multiple times...

I hear unknown voices coming around me. They sound detached. I respond back. They respond too. More people enter the chamber now. We respond together. More people are attracted by the pipes outside. They bring fresh information inside. It's uncorrelated information. Soon the soundscape becomes chaotic. A process begins. A sequence of events, which seems to be unpredictable.

I'm interested in processes. In systems of sequences. My 'strangers attractor' is an exploration of sequences. I feel fascinated to think of the numerous possible algorithms that different people can follow to activate the machine... The 'strangers attractor' machine is like a combustion engine. It can be ignited and start moving. And it requires a constant flow of fuel. It requires constant effort. If you stay passive you get a single impression. If you become active you get multiples of that impression. In contrast to a combustion engine, 'a strangers attractor' does not produce deterministic work. Its output is highly stochastic, unpredictable and potentially chaotic because human relations can be as such. It is a playground machine, inside a prestigious exhibition hall, that attempts to brake conformism. How should we look at art shows? Is it inappropriate to laugh, to have fun? Can such behaviours prevent us from thinking?

'A strangers attractor' spreads like a technical parasite. It is restricted but also finds its way wherever possible. It tries to connect, instead of 'polluting'. It reveals its industrial legs and attempts to dissolve territories. It is a child of a network infrastructure. Its outer and inner selves are presented to us in vivid contrast. It is hard to come to a unique judgment of its character. Multiple realities exist in it at the same time. Liquid realities of constant change. You can be part of them. But whatever you do, whatever you say can be ephemeral...

Text by George Koutsouris.





MATERIALS:

Plastic cable pipes, MDF, wood, sound absorptive material, acoustic fabric, acrylic mirror, steel fasteners, clear line, 8-channel electroacoustic installation, (loudspeakers, microphones, PC, 15' real-time echo composition), text.



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