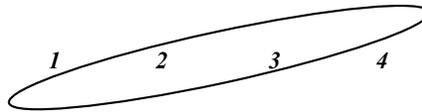


Installation: Silence - The text below was posted on a pedestal inside the “Silence” installation for viewers

C h r i s t i n e W h i t t a k e r

Performance, Installation, and Multi-Media Sculpture



S I L E N C E

(A Sound Resonant Cavity Sculpture)

Models and Proposal for Temporary Outdoor Sculpture Installation

“Silence” is a sound-generated sculpture that designed to be placed in either a rural or river environment. The sculpture is composed of five to seven, 57°- triangle components, each fabricated of carbon steel structural square tubing. The linear, external structure of the sculpture represents a geographical form that cuts through a metamorphic environment and opposes its contour. Thus, this form can be altered depending on the chosen geographic location (as indicated in the models).

Within each structure exist a volumetric sound refraction cavity, where sound waves are constantly and freely resonating. The longer the structural components the lower the pitch, the shorter the beams the higher the pitch. In other words, a graduation of pitch occurs as the beams gradually lengthen.

Each structure is different in size and thus, produces a unique pitch. According to its size, each beam will be placed to visually suggest a slight, linear inclination of the beams through space. In addition, a relatively small section of each beam will be removed to allow for interior pitch. Thus, a live matrix of ever changing sounds is created within the beam. In order to pick up these sound waves, a sound transducer is placed within each component. The sound transducer then converts sound waves into a series of corresponding electrical voltages, which are amplified, modified and then reconverted into audible sound waves through a speaker system.

If the sound sculpture was constructed a viewer-participant shelter would be built to both showcase the most prominent view of the sculpture and allow for amplification of the matrix of sound produced in the sculpture. The combination seeing the sculpture and listening to ever changing sound would be a phenomenal experience. Therefore, the Silence models and sound system are constructed in a way that the viewer can perceptually imagine this experience. It is an interesting idea that one might be able to both perceptually traverse such landmasses and collapse space.

“Silence” is a metaphor for “the absolute calm”. The sculpture is based on wind patterns in nature, the idea of constant change, and how a matrix of natural and controlled sound can redefine the viewer’s perception in time and space.