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John Wynne: *Wireframe*

January 24 – March 22, 2009

Wireframe was a site-specific, 16.1 channel sound art installation. The precise computer-controlled movement of sound traced the three dimensional form of the exhibit space to create an immersive architectural sound drawing. With the gallery darkened, visitors heard – rather than seen – the space in which they found themselves

Wireframe was developed from an idea conceived during a residency at E:vent Gallery, London, and is part of the Surrey Art Gallery’s ongoing exhibition program showcasing contemporary audio art practice.

Artist’s Statement

This piece is site-specific in the most literal sense. It is about the architectural shape and acoustic properties of the space in which it is experienced and uses only sounds that were created or recorded within the gallery. It is, partly, an attempt to create the equivalent in sound of the kind of computer-aided drawing (CAD) an architect or engineer might make of the same space. But, instead of using light from a 2-dimensional computer screen, it uses sound to define the room in 3 dimensions and on a 1:1 scale. In the absence of visual cues, the only way to orient yourself in the space is through sound. Once the shape of the room has been ‘rendered’, it is dramatically populated by sounds recorded during the physical construction of the piece. *Wireframe* references Robert Morris’ *Box with the Sound of its Own Making*, in that the gallery preparators (exhibition installation staff) become absent performers working, as always, behind the scenes to make the piece what it is.

About the Artist

John Wynne is a Canadian sound artist currently based in London, UK. He exhibits internationally in galleries, museums and public spaces as well as on the radio. His work with endangered languages includes a project with click languages in the Kalahari and a current project with one of BC’s endangered indigenous languages. He was artist-in-residence at a heart and lung transplant centre in the UK, leading to an award-winning commission for BBC Radio, a book and a 24-channel installation with photographer Tim Wainwright. He is a senior lecturer at University of the Arts, London, and has a PhD in Sound Art from Goldsmiths College, University of London.

Acknowledgments

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E:vent

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