

The University of Hong Kong
Department of Music

RESEARCH COLLOQUIA
FALL 2017

Johannes S. Siermanns
(Sound Artist/Composer/Performer)

Un—the World or Ma Un Ma
A Composer's Perception on Gaps, Decoupling and No Messages

Johannes S. Siermanns sees himself as a sound sculptor (*Klangplastiker*), who has created a new perspective on installation work called SoundPlastic (*KlangPlastik*). Two distinguishing features of his work are the exploration of the acoustic potential of spaces, places, situations, and instruments, and his experiments with the transmission of sounds on vibrating materials, such as conventional instruments or car bodies, stairways, hotel rooms and stretched cling film material. With this he creates new spaces, rooms, accentuates them and transmits his compositions onto it.

Keywords in Siermanns' actual art practice are space folding, resonance, consciousness, the Japanese notion and understanding of "ma" and syllable "un": un_repeatable, un_predictable, the un_conclusiveness of the momentary perception, decoupling brings forth space, let the "un" grow large, qualifying versus quantifying. Folding—where is message gone?

Johannes S. Siermanns stages his compositions as electroacoustic, SoundPlastic, music theatre, urban environment, and radiophonic sound art. He studied the "Tao of Voice" method with Stephen Cheng in New York and classical North Indian singing at the Banares Hindu University. From 1976 to 1984, he studied piano, rhythmic, and new music theatre with Mauricio Kagel at the Cologne Conservatory of Music. Performances, exhibitions, teachings, and fellowships have taken him to Japan, China, Australia, Europe and the USA. He has been a guest artist at many international festivals, including the Knitting Factory in New York (1995), Melbourne Festival (1997), EXPO 2000 World Exhibition in Hanover, Adelaide Festival (2000), Donaueschinger Musiktage (1996, 1999, 2005, 2016), Shanghai International Electroacoustic Music Festival (2006), ISCM World New Music Days Schweiz (2004)/Stuttgart (2006)/Sydney (2010), Experimental Intermedia in New York (2007), Australasian Computer Music Conference Sydney (2008), ZKM Karlsruhe Sound Dome (2010), Musicarama Hong Kong (2011), Rainy Days Festival Luxembourg (2012), ICMC Perth (2013)/Athen(2014), Sonic Anchor Hong Kong (2013), MOFO Festival Tasmania (2015). Siermanns performed and lectured at the International Summer Courses for New Music in Darmstadt (2004, 2006, 2012), and worked as the Artistic Director of Experimental Music Theatre in Dresden (2010). He has received numerous awards including the German Soundart Award 2008.

WEDNESDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2017, 5:00PM
SEMINAR ROOM 11.01, 11/F RUN RUN SHAW TOWER, CENTENNIAL CAMPUS
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ALL WELCOME
For further information, call 3917 7045

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