



AUDIO PEACOCK

Benoît Maubrey is the director of DIE AUDIO GRUPPE a Berlin-based art group that build and perform with electronic clothes (past examples: AUDIO BALLERINAS, AUDIO GEISHAS --see web site). Basically these are site-specific electro-acoustic clothes and dresses (equipped with amplifiers and loudspeakers) that create sounds by interacting with their environment.

An Audio Peacock wears an electronic instrument shaped in the form of a peacock's fan-like plumage. The plexiglass surface is equipped with 16 loudspeakers (150 watts power), an amplifier, and rechargeable 12 volt batteries. The "audio-plumage" is highly directional and functions much in the same way as an electroacoustic radar dish -- esthetically it has much in common with the way a peacock parades itself in front of a pea-hen (the audience). An Audio Peacock can either amplify local sounds or its own voice using a built-in microphone, sampler, and filters. The sounds are amplified and altered via his electronic equipment (loop + pitching devices).

In the performance PEACOCK IN THE FOREST (June 2005) I created a series of such mobile sound installations in an "Uhrwald" (a primeval forest) outside the city of Saarbrücken. I was struck by the acoustic effects of the forest and natural environment.

As a mobile sound artist I am primarily interested in investigating an architectural or topographical space: I work with sound that travels through air, inhabits it, reacts to it and transforms itself (for example via echoes). When a space is enhanced with sound (like color being applied to a canvas) then it changes into a new environment and helps visitors to re-discover it.

Audio Peacock is not a permanent performance-event, it is a sound installation that occurs sporatically over a period of time: much as its distant courtyard cousin this "sound bird" animates its revier by letting out its calls at odd moments and surprising us.



