

Intersection (2013) for live-electronics, live-video and lighting by Marko Ciciliani

Duration: 10 minutes

Intersection (2013) is a work for live-electronics, live-video and lighting.

The piece is performed live using a tablet as the sole interface. The novelty in terms of performance practice does not lie in the choice of interface but rather in the attempt to use an interface within a fixed composition, that equally affects the aural as visual aspect of the work.

The visual material consists of two video recordings of an intersection in the center of Zürich that were recorded in the Summer of 2012. Both recordings have been taken from exactly the same position, one during daytime, the other during nighttime. This active intersection shows people in transit; as pedestrians, on bicycles, in cars or public transportation.

In the piece “Intersection” rapid changes between these two recordings and their color-inverted versions are taking place, creating an illusory impression of the otherwise static image. In a second section, two zoomed-in images from the same footage of groups of persons form the focus. Here, the visuals are expanded by the additional use of light fixtures, thereby expanding the visual field. Because of the perspective of the camera in the recordings (so-called “military-perspective”), issues of surveillance of public spaces are evoked. This atmosphere is intensified by the use of a chopped up transmission of police radio that has been used as part of the sonic material.

All sound synthesis is programmed in SuperCollider while the processing of the images has been realized with the C++ based programming environment OpenFrameworks. The performance is controlled by a performer on stage, who is controlling sound and visuals with a wireless tablet.

While the video uses prerecorded films, all processes that are applied to it –including the rhythmic switches between the different source materials – are happening in real time. The same goes for the electronic part which uses real time synthesis besides a recording of police radio transmissions, that is serving as a basis for waveset granulation.

At the core of the program lies a pattern-generator that is controlled by the performer. The pattern-generator affects the changes in sound and image, but most of the time various levels of events are controlled at different pacings. In other words, while all rhythmic changes are happening according to the pattern-generator, they do not necessarily occur in direct synchronisation with each other. In this way, changing relationships between visuals and sound in terms of timing are explored during the course of the piece. Other processes applied in the visuals include contour tracing with OpenCV and image granulations. The sonic level is primarily making use of additive synthesis and waveset granulation.

A demo version of “Intersection” is included with this text. It can also be downloaded via:

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/22152930/Intersection.mp4>

or be viewed online at:

<https://vimeo.com/60149024>

Technical requirements:

Stereo speaker setup with subwoofers.

Video projection with screen and VGA connection running to the performance are (or FOH).

Two long XLR cables of approx. 20 meter each.

CV

Marko Ciciliani (* 1970, Croatia) is a composer, audiovisual artist and researcher based in Austria. Starting from October 2014, he is full professor for “computer music composition and sound design” at the Institute for Electronic Music and Acoustics – IEM – of the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz in Graz/Austria, where he has been teaching since 2011 as guest-professor.

It is characteristic of Ciciliani’s compositions that sound is not only understood as abstract material but as a culturally shaped idiom. The exploration of a sound’s communicative potential is as much in the

foreground of his work as its objective sonic quality. Ciciliani's work is characterized by a conceptual approach in which aspects of classical composition, sound- and media-studies play together.

The different "genres" in which Ciciliani's music can be heard and seen, are reflecting his manifold artistic activities. His music has been performed in more than 30 countries in Europe, Asia, Australia and the Americas. It has been programmed by festivals and concert series of electronic experimental music like Experimental Intermedia/NYC, Club Transmediale/Berlin, SuperDeluxe/Tokyo or the NowNow Series/Sydney just as much as by festivals for instrumental music as Wien Modern, Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, Zagreb Biennale, ISCM World Music Days and many more.

In 2009 Marko Ciciliani was recipient of the prestigious Villa Aurora Stipend, a three-month artists residency in Los Angeles. He received numerous project-residencies at STEIM, ESS, ICST and ZKM. In 2014 he was teaching at the International Summer Courses for New Music in Darmstadt.