

CHRISTINA KUBISCH / 25 JULY–1 OCTOBER 2006

Electrical Walks



Christina Kubisch's Electrical Walks enable a new experience of the city, one that uncovers Birmingham's hidden acoustic phenomena. Armed with her special magnetic headphones that amplify the perceptibility of electrical currents and a map marked with local acoustic landmarks, visitors are offered an auditory adventure that shifts perception of everyday reality by giving substance to invisible wavelengths and charges.

She explains; "Heavy magnetic fields are concentrated in areas where people work, trade and consume: city centres, shopping arcades, public transportation areas, office quarters. A great number of fields are due to security systems, such as the electronic 'shields' at the entrance of department stores. These hidden worlds become audible when going on an 'electric walk'... By means of a wireless custom-made headphone the public can detect the electro-magnetic fields in the form of audio signals. The variety is astonishing: loudness, length, tone and rhythm come in a great variety. The 'electrical walk' is not an event, rather it is a slow walk which might reveal what was unknown before."

A new composition by Kubisch, based on the sounds that can be encountered en-route will form the basis of an installation in Ikon's Tower Room from 25 July – 17 September.



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TUESDAY—SUNDAY 11AM—6PM
WEDNESDAY 11AM—8PM (EXCLUDES 20 SEPTEMBER)

Headphones can be collected from Ikon reception in exchange for a valid proof of identity such as a driving licence, passport, credit or debit card or suitable alternative. Groups of more than 4 people are advised to book in advance on Tel. 0121 248 0708

Use of headphones is not harmful, but please be cautious as certain sound sources, particularly security gates, can be extremely loud. It is advisable to remove the headphones when crossing roads. The route indicated on the map is a suggestion only. Feel free to explore the city as you choose. Some of the sounds indicated on the map may not be present all of the time. Please turn your headphones off after use and return them promptly to Ikon.

Electrical Walks is kindly supported by Birmingham Institute of Art and Design and Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen e. U.

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IKON



Birmingham City Council



UCE BIRMINGHAM



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beziehungen e. V.