

The Kitchen

Christina Kubisch: *New York Electrical Walk*

September 9-October 14, 2006

Christina Kubisch's *New York Electrical Walk* enables a new experience of New York City. Visitors can explore New York's streets and buildings with special magnetic headphones that reveal the sounds of electrical currents that are normally imperceptible. The headphones, designed and built by the artist, detect sound emitted by electro-magnetic fields generated by lighting systems, electronic security systems, electrical power sources, wireless communication systems, surveillance cameras, computers, mobile phones and other devices and systems.

Describing the physical principles at work in the piece, Kubisch explains: "Every current in an electrical conductor—for example a wire or cable—generates an electromagnetic field. These currents can be like the signals running through loudspeaker cables, or they can come from electrical activity in the infrastructures of buildings or cities. The magnetic component of these fields is picked up by the sensor coils in the headphones. And, after amplification, these signals are made audible by little speaker systems in the headphones. So if there's an electromagnetic field (say, an underground cable) and another one nearby (say, the headphones), the fields pick up each other. The sound jumps through the air from one to the other."

The accompanying map guides the visitor to particular destinations in Chelsea, providing a chance to explore the city by sound, rather than sight. The route indicated on the map is only a guideline. Please feel free to explore wherever you choose. Some of the sounds indicated on the map may not be present at all times, and there are always new ones to discover.

Be aware: use of the headphones is not harmful; but please be careful as some sound sources can be very loud. In addition, please use caution when crossing roads.

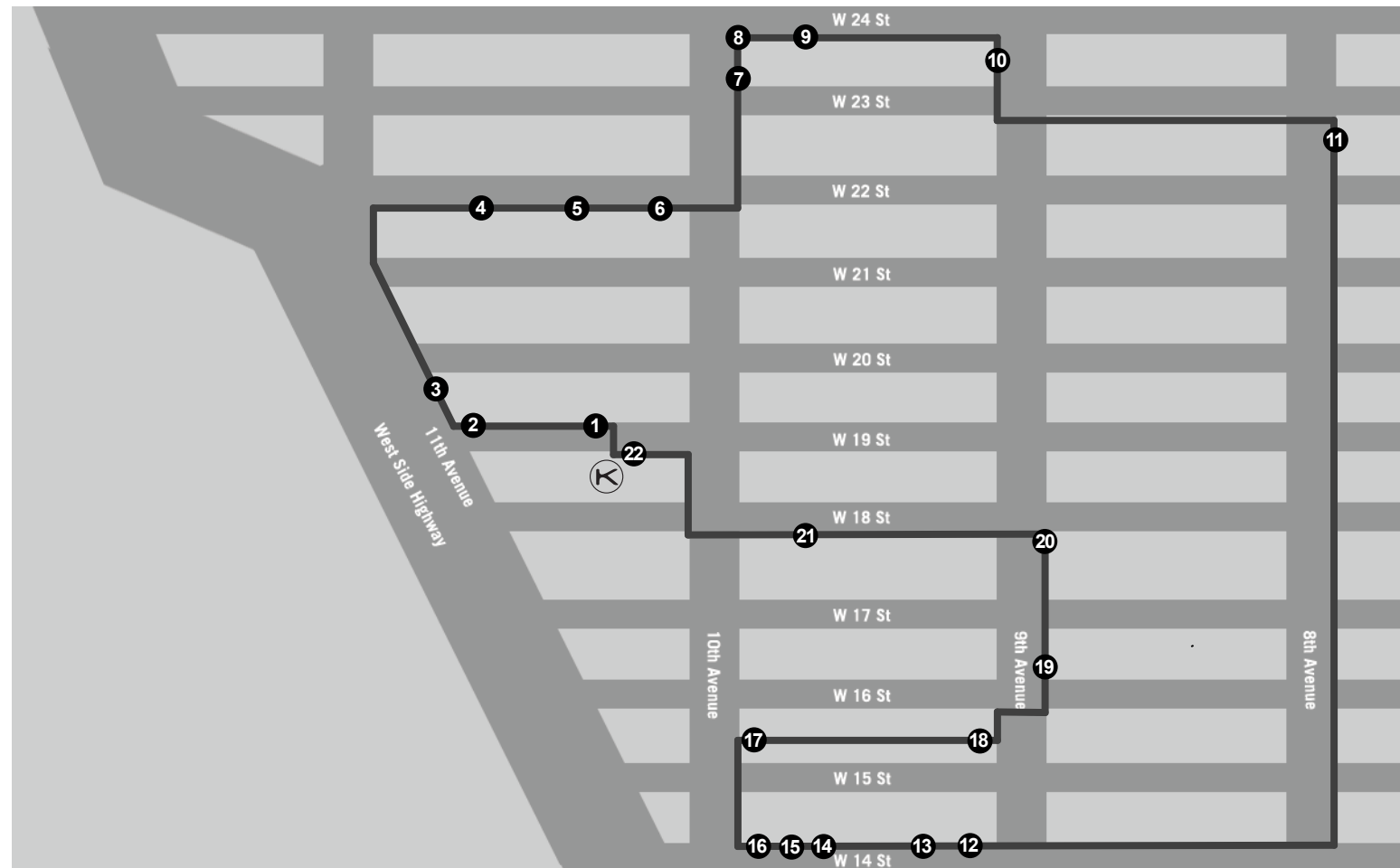
This project is part of *Invisible Geographies: New Sound Art from Germany*, an exhibition curated by Christoph Cox featuring Jens Brand, Christina Kubisch, Stefan Rummel, and Jan-Peter E.R. Sonntag. Using the invisible networks of sound waves and electromagnetic signals that circulate around us, the four installations in the exhibition trace the physical topography of the audible world to produce alternative maps of our surroundings.

Exhibition Hours: Tue-Fri, 12-6pm; Sat 11-6pm

Invisible Geographies is made possible with support from the ifa - Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen, Stuttgart e.V. and with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.



ifa Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen e.V.



1 Construction site outside The Kitchen

Walk left out of The Kitchen towards the end of 19th Street. Search for signals around the construction sounds.

2 Corner of 19th St. and 11th Ave.

Stop on the corner to listen. Turn your head from side to side. Notice that, in the city, corners are particularly active sound areas.

3 Women's Prison

Walk along the side of 11th Ave. slowly and then stand out front of the building on the corner of 20th St. and 11th Ave.

4 Balenciaga

Walk along the outside wall of the store located on 22nd St. between 10th and 11th Ave. and pause at the entrance to hear their security system.

5 Comme des Garçons

Step inside the silver tunnel to listen.

6 Time Warner Cable Company Building

Walk slowly up to this building on the corner of 22nd St. and 10th Ave., noticing the

change in noise when you pass under the bridge. Explore the sounds coming from behind the brick wall.

7 Chase Bank

Stop at the entrance of Chase Bank, on the corner of 23rd St. and 10th Ave., then walk along the windows on the 10th Ave. side to listen to Chase's security system.

8 Post Office

Go inside the post office located next to Chase Bank and walk to the left. Stand next to the stamp machine and listen with your head close to the scrolling LED ticker.

9 24th Street

Walk slowly along 24th St. towards 9th Ave. Listen to the fields of sound in and around the 440/450/460 entrance canopy.

10 London Terrace Liquor Shop

Pause in front of this store on 9th Ave. between 23rd and 24th St. to listen to the neon light in the window.

11 Subway Station & Ride

8th Ave. and 23rd St. In the station, walk along the row of ticket vending machines. Put your head close to the scrolling LED tickers and to the screens. While waiting for the train, explore the sounds of the station, listening closely when trains arrive and depart. During the ride, notice the sonic rhythm generated when the train moves. Exit the subway using the 14th Street NW exit.

12-16 14th Street Security System Row Listen to the variety of sounds emitted by the security systems at Alexander McQueen, La Perla, DDCLAB, Stella McCartney, and Jeffrey. Walk slowly from one store to the other to hear a combination of sounds.

17-18 Chelsea Market

Enter Chelsea Market located on 15th St. and 10th Ave. Notice the change in sound level once you are inside. Explore the variety of sounds in the market, particularly the television monitors and ATMs throughout.

Sit on the bench next to the water fountain in the center of the market. Stop at the glass windows that overlook the bakers at Amy's Bread, across from Frank's Fine Meats. Before exiting the market on to 9th Ave., stop by the elevators across from the flower shop.

19 Maritime Hotel Building

Walk slowly along the exterior of the Maritime Hotel located on 9th Ave. between 16th and 17th St.

20 Tanara Dry Cleaners

Stop outside of the store on the corner of 18th St. and 9th Ave. to listen to the variety of sounds produced by the laundry machines.

21 Verizon Building

Walk slowly along the exterior brick wall of the Verizon building located on 18th St. between 9th and 10th Ave., listening for sounds coming from within.

22 Outside of The Kitchen

Before entering The Kitchen, pause by the black door to the left of the entrance. Step inside to the doorway to explore the sounds, turning your head from side to side.