

liquid architecture / frozen music

Moving Sounds 2015 presents 'liquid architecture / frozen music' -- a festival intervening into and artistically engaging Raimund Abraham's landmark sculptural Austrian Cultural Forum NY through sound, music, movement, performance, discussions, and an interactive installation/environment in which the building itself becomes a musical instrument.

Architect Raimund Abraham's iconic and totemic Austrian Cultural Forum in Midtown Manhattan becomes the subject, site, and interlocutor of creative interventions exploring the building's architecture through sound, music, and movement. The ACFNY's Moving Sounds 2015 presents liquid architecture / frozen music: a week-long festival of performances, an interactive sound installation, and a discussion series with distinguished architectural thinkers. Sound artist Bernd Klug transforms Abraham's ACFNY into an interactive social instrument that treats the building and its sonic environment as a colossal violin. Composer Bernhard Lang's On Monadology XVIII Moving Architectures is an evening length performance that redraws the ACFNY's architecture in 22 tiers using Abraham's original proportions and plans, transforming the latter into time-scales and durations. In line with the ACFNY's role as a forum, liquid architecture / frozen music opens an unlikely inter-disciplinary exploration of architecture and a meeting place of creativity, experimentalism, and critical thought. (Christopher Zimmerman, curator)

organizational team:

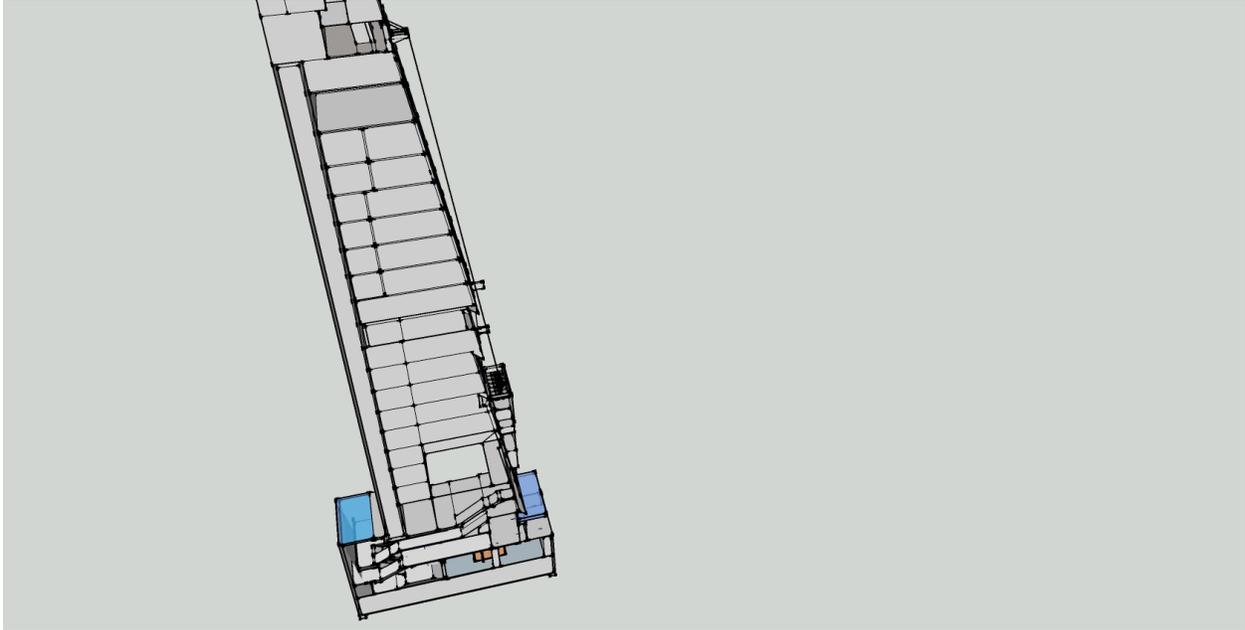
Christopher Zimmerman: curator

Michel Galante: curator

Bernhard Lang: composer

Bernd Klug: sound artist

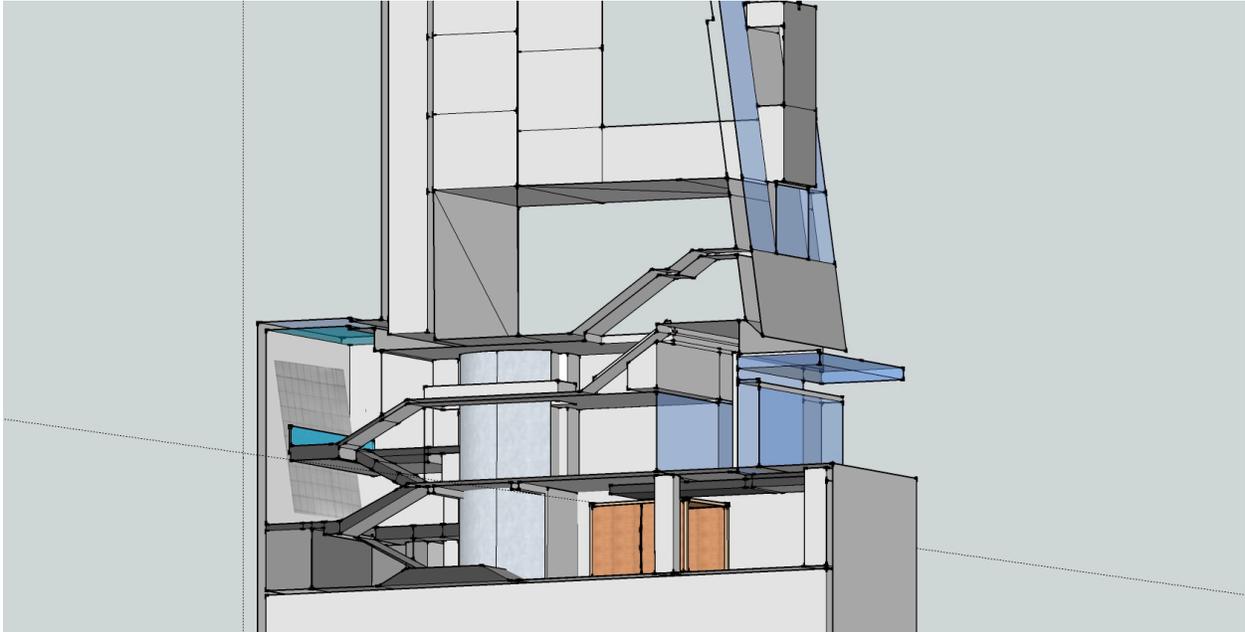
Sound Installation at the Austrian Cultural Forum New York
by Bernd Klug
August 13 - September 17 2015



In this sound installation, Bernd Klug transforms Raimund Abraham's Austrian Cultural Forum in New York City into an interactive social instrument. Treating the building like a colossal violin, he attaches two musical strings to the outside of the facade, stretching from the rooftop on the 22nd floor all the way down to the top of the director's office on the 8th floor, with a total length of 128 feet. This free ringing wire is played by Midtown's vibrant drone of the movement of millions of people, winds and weather and the resonant frequencies of the building itself. The strings are picked up as audio signals and sent via solar-powered radio transmission down into the building's main gallery in the basement, where they are amplified only by additional strings and a large wooden resonator, giving people the chance to walk into the body of this "violin." The whole publicly accessible sound installation extends over three floors and uses the architectural and institutional structures of this building to create different zones and layers of engagement. The audience plays an integral role: subtle feedbacks trace their movements as they walk through the installation, thus altering the soundscape; strings play with the question of their conscious interaction; and electro-magnetic amplification sonifies the unheard noises of their cellphones and electronic devices. The installation recalls the original meaning of forum, offering people the chance to directly engage with the building and the people who made and make it, inviting them to linger, to explore the common denominators of sound and architecture in public spaces.

Together with the German painter Johanna Tiedtke, Bernd Klug is also bringing in different layers of time and location by displaying an 18'x18' ink drawing on translucent

paper, which is based on digital scans of a metal plate used as a resonant floor in their duo exhibition at the Galerie Freihausgasse Villach earlier this year (April 2015). This plate captures the traces of the audience in Klug's hometown, transferring them through analog and digital media and pointing to the means of audience, time and materiality in installation art.



collaborators:

Christopher Zimmerman: curator

Johanna Tiedtke: painting

Bob Bielecki: technical advisor

Sarah Millsaps Towles: engineering

Justin Den Herder: engineering

Ezekiel Healy: woodwork

Thomastik-Infeld-Vienna: string production