

## Humming Dialogs – Berlin, Tokyo, and Fukushima –

2016 / Sound installation / mixed media: multi-speakers x8, Mac with surround system, audio interface / dimensions variable

I have been employing onomatopoeia, the linguistic expression that imitates sound, as the central theme of works in my practice. The French word onomatopée comes from the ancient Greek word ὀνοματοποιία, connoting the “creation of words” and I believe that anyone can participate in such a creation process. The purpose of my activities is to bring out the latent potential within participants to create “sounds” with their own language, and in order to get the maximum result, I often leave the process of imitating sounds to the participants.

In the sound installation of “Humming Dialogs”, visitors would hear a variety of onomatopoeic words imitating environmental sounds, emitted by participants who are Japanese and German speakers of different cultural backgrounds, in their own way. The participants first hear cries of creatures and everyday sounds of the cities of Berlin and Tokyo as well as sounds of nature in Fukushima; they were then asked by me to imitate those sounds using onomatopoeias. The voiced onomatopoeias were quite different from the actual environmental sounds, and since the process of translation went through each participant’s interpretation, the constructed soundscape reveals a sensitive and refreshing rendition of the cities.

私は音を模倣した言葉の表現であるオノマトペを主体とし、その語源とも言われる「言葉を創造する」という誰にでも創作可能な表現を制作に携わる参加者に一任することで、彼ら自身の声や文字で「音」を創作するという自発的な潜在能力を引き出す事を試みています。

“Humming Dialogs” のサウンドインスタレーションは、日本語とドイツ語話者が日常生活で耳にする様々なまちの音や生き物の鳴き声を聞き、彼らの自発的なオノマトペで模倣した「声」で表わしたサウンドインスタレーションです。その声は実際の環境音とは異なり、彼らの心情によってそれらの地域の特徴を知覚的に捉えたサウンドスケープは、ベルリンと東京そして福島風景を映し出しています。