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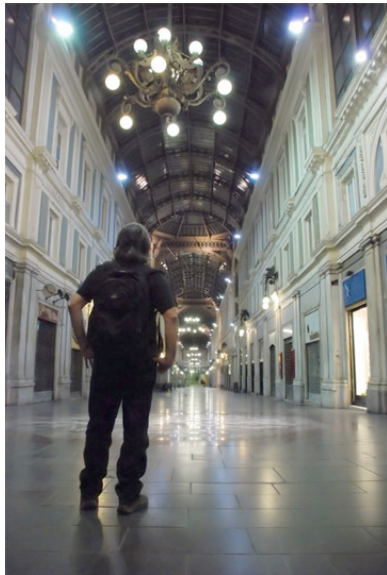
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JEFF TALMAN – ‘A PLAY OF FLOWS’

The Mediterranean Sea “tuned” to a Genoese landmark

Exhibition in Galleria Mazzini, Oct 23 – Nov 4

Galleria Mazzini, the elegant 19th Century architectural gem in the heart of Genoa, Italy, serves as the framing space for international artist Jeff Talman’s newly commissioned installation ‘A Play of Flows.’ The work’s sonic environment, based on site resonance and the nearby Mediterranean Sea, initiates a meditation on the contributing currents that enliven this spectacular urban site.



Recorded at a nearby Genoese beach, crashing wave sounds provide the sonic source material for the installation. Talman filtered these sounds to align them with the resonant frequencies or “tuning” of the Galleria. The sea wave sounds, shaped into a series of spatial and site-harmonic progressions, engage the architecture as the “voice” of the sea sings in the Galleria, turning it into a vast resonating instrument.

The installation features four ‘sound fountains’ that create cascades of resonant sound under the four domes of the gigantic glass and iron topped space. The sea-sonic wave environment fills the space as the domes, over 80-feet high, become giant parabolic sound reflectors. The timed release of cascading and erupting vertical sound motions under the domes are sequenced across the 592-foot length of the Galleria. The highly reflective marble floor and glass superstructure provide a dense reverberation as an atmospheric sense of the Galleria’s unique resonant structure is exposed and dynamically engaged.

Rarified sound wave motion is explored as intimations of the sea fill the space in a play of flowing motions that stand in reference to the history of the Galleria, the flow of time, people and events. Choreographic fields of sonic energy laced with the maritime sense of the Italian Riviera region interact with the architecture in a program that poetically confronts aspects of site, perception and time.

‘A Play of Flows’ is a highlight of Genoa’s Festival della Scienza. Alessandra Natale is Curator of the installation for the Bogliasco Foundation, an international foundation that operates an Arts and Humanities residency program at the Liguria Study Center in nearby Bogliasco, Italy. Additional support for the installation is by the City, the Province and the Chamber of Commerce of Genoa and the Merchants Association of the Galleria Mazzini. Following this exhibition, Galleria-Studio Ghiglione, Genoa will present Talman’s ‘Sea-Sound-Wave,’ an exhibition of photography and video installation from Nov. 3 – 12.

Jeff Talman has created installations in Cathedral Square, Cologne, Germany, in St. James Cathedral, Chicago, in the Bavarian Forest, for the MIT Media Lab, Eyebeam, The Kitchen, and bitforms gallery in New York City among others. Recent awards include a 2006 Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship in Sound Art and a 2003 New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in Computer Arts. His unique achievement is self-reflexive resonance in which the inherent ambient resonance of an installation site is identified, amplified and returned to the space. Born in Pennsylvania and trained as a composer and pianist, he served as conductor to numerous orchestras. His sound work leapt from concert stage to the New York City gallery scene in 1996. Today his sound and video installations, sculpture and two-dimensional work are regularly featured internationally in museums, galleries and other historic and alternative sites. Upcoming installations include a massive work for the Cathedral of Cologne in the spring of 2009. Talman lives and works in Manhattan. For further information: www.jefftalman.com

After construction (1870-80), the Galleria Mazzini quickly became a gathering place for artists, writers, poets, journalists, political activists and other intellectuals, including the opera composers Verdi, Puccini and Mascagni. As the center of the Italian Riviera café society, it was a crossroads for the shaping minds of the *fin de siècle*, as well as that for society and trade. The Galleria was the ultimate Genoese meeting point. Built in the era of *architettura del ferro*, the Galleria and other prominent edifices of the industrial age, including the Eiffel Tower in Paris and the Flatiron Building in New York, were assembled with repeated-form cast iron parts. The resultant visual flow of similar-form sections graces these Belle Époque structures, lending them an expressive regularity, as their visible components join to create a harmonious, larger structure.

Located on the Italian Riviera in the village of Bogliasco, the Liguria Study Center provides residential fellowships for qualified persons working on advanced creative or scholarly projects in the arts and humanities. The Study Center is one of the few residential institutions in the world dedicated exclusively to the humanistic disciplines. Founded in 1996, during twelve years of activity the center has hosted more than 520 fellows from 35 countries. The Liguria Study Center is administered by the Bogliasco Foundation, an international operating foundation that was created in 1991 by a group of artists and scholars from Italy, Switzerland, and the United States. In January, 2007 the Foundation received the 'Grifo d'Oro,' the highest honor given by the city of Genoa, in recognition of its support of the arts and letters.

Genoa's Festival della Scienza (Science Festival) was born in 2003. Its main goal was to propose a new way of diffusing scientific information in Italy through an approach based on interactivity, cross-cut events, topics and language geared to spread science to the general public, as well as experts and science fans. The Festival has developed after 4 editions and today it is one of the most successful events in the field of European scientific dissemination. In the last 4 years the festival has organized more than 1,000 events including exhibitions, workshops, performance and shows with an attendance over 180,000.

Galleria Mazzini image by Ginger Marley

See Peter Traub's interview of JT, August 2008
http://transition.turbulence.org/networked_music_review/