

FAMU
2009-10 ZS

Electronic music performance: various degrees of surprise

FAMU OpenEye2009

Robert van Heumen

Nov-18 - Nov-20 / FAMU, Smetanovo nám.2, Institut intermédií
Start Nov-18. at 14:00, further by appointment.
Final presentation at Institute of intermedia, Fri 20.11. v 16.45

Workshop in english.

Lecturer: Robert van Heumen (nl)

<http://cas.famu.cz/openeye>

As a composer and improviser of electronic music, I'm always operating in the area between fixed media composition and free improvisation. I'm very interested in mixing these two formats, using both prepared soundblocks and live sampled material in one performance, where this performance is partly structured but still open enough to surprise myself, my collaborators and the audience. Another duality that I enjoy incorporating in my performances and which is not often crossed is the one between abstract soundworlds and tonal material, between crackles and hisses and melancholic melodies. In the workshop we will work on a performance with these elements. (R.v H.)

Robert van Heumen works with electronic means to create soundworlds. As a musician Van Heumen uses STEIM's live sampling software LiSa and real-time audio-synthesis software SuperCollider, controlled by various physical devices. His soundworlds are a mixture of digital crackles, heavy distortion, melancholic melodies, environmental sounds, voices and sounds from kitchen appliances, some of the time smashed beyond repair. Live sampled source sounds are gesturally manipulated and reworked within open ended narratives, exploring cycles of repetition beyond episodic improvisation. Recent fixed-media works include the compositions Stranger and Fury, which are performed in multichannel and semi-improvised environments. Fury was presented at ICMC08, and Stranger premiered as a diffused work at Culturelab in Newcastle (UK). Both compositions are available on Creative Sources Recordings. In the fall of 2008 Van Heumen constructed the radioplay No Man's Land, commissioned by the CEM studio at WORM in Rotterdam, NL.

More at www.hardhatarea.com a www.steim.org.