



photo: Motoyuki Shitamichi

THE WAY I HEAR, Fuchu 2012-2013

lecture performance, "OPEN STUDIO PROGRAM 57 - etude for everyday life/THE WAY I HEAR"
Fuchu Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan, 2013

performer: mamoru, Ai Onoda, Akie Mitsukado
audio operator: Kohei Hashimoto

The lecture performance, about 1 hour and 15 minutes, is centered around the history of the area around the Fuchu Art Museum, and mainly evolve through the recitation of the soundscape that are collected through listening and research; the research was done during the 3 month OPEN STUDIO PROGRAM at the museum.

Although several field recordings and audio files of the interviews are played during the lecture for supplemental purpose, the use of literature and verbal language, the recitation of the soundscape with simple gestures is the most essential aspect of this performance.

There are 7 primal soundscapes, dated from 1898, 1941, 1968, 1971, 2012, and 2013, which are performed as solo, duo, or trio. All of them are of the specific location, date, hour and minute. They are connected with short narratives from the field research and/or the quotes from other literatures such as the essay "Musashino" by Doppo Kunikida who was the major writer from the late 19C Japan, excerpts from the dairy of a folklore researcher, Tsuneichi Miyamoto who lived in the area, and official accounts of the Fuchu City Council. The maps from different time, old photographs are also employed and displayed time to time on the white board to accompany the imaginary soundscapes.

more images and the documentation of the process of the creation, and the entire transcription of the performance
URL: http://www.afewnotes.com/TWIH_Fuchu201213_e.html



(excerpt from the transcription of the performance)

“In Fuchu City, I have visited a lot of places, as you see them on the wall <pointing out the printout images on the wall>. I took the listening memo in those places, sometime more like mapping out. I simply listened to the sound and did not confirm the situation with my sight as much as I could. For example, If I heard 2 person passing by, I just wrote down something like “2 person passing by” without looking at them to make sure if they were really 2 or not.

<put the photo of the street of Shinmachi on the White Board(WB)>

mamoru(m): There is nothing special about the photo or the location. But, can you imagine the sound?

audience(a): I hear a motorcycle or bicycle passing by.

m: Yes, I can imagine it here or maybe over there. <point out the photo>

a: Birds.

m: Yes, birds. So you can hear it from the picture. This means we can “hear” the sound when we see the photo/picture. And did you realize that we have been practicing another way of “hearing” sound since the beginning of the performance?

m: What did you just say? <pointing the audience>

a: Birds?

m: Yes. You said “birds”. OK How about you?

a: Motorcycly or bycycly passing by...

m: Did you heard it? I am sure when he said the word “birds”, we heard it. The same goes to the Motorcycle and bicycle. We heard when the words been spoken.

That means, we can “hear” the sound from the verbalized description of the sound.

m: Now we have stretched the means of listening a little further, and that is the kind of “sound” I would like to present to you today.”



(excerpts from the duo recitation)

performer: Aki Onoda(O), mamoru(m)

“m: 2012.12.23. Sunday, Cloudy, breezing, cold day

m: 11:10, a little distance away, engine of the car started

O: nearby, the signal sound of the car moving backward

m+O: in front of us, a car passing by

m: the car stopps, door opens and closes

O: over the sky, birds singing some often

...(continue)...”

(excerpt from the performance)

performer: mamoru(m)

audio operator: Kouhei Hashimoto(H)

“m: Long long time ago, there was the ancient Tama river running in the area. The bottom of the river shaped the land, and made the pit. The stream could have started from here <pointing on the map> around the prison, and passes the Tenjincho area.... <turn around, face the audience, and pause>

Well, I kind of remember the person who grew up in Tenjincho who had mentioned about it in his interview...

<H: playing the interview of Mr. Kouda>

recording: *‘There were lots of trees around here. I also remember that we had spring water, and there was a stream of water, very thin one that you wouldn’t call it as a river. Oh but, when there was a typhoon, it did become like a small river.’*

The stream went through the reservation, and passed the south side of Mt.Sengen. <finger on the map, and pause>

The sound she heard might have been related to that?

<H: playing the interview of Mrs. Miki>

recording: *‘Do you know about the spring water around here? I remember this small river. There used to be this stream around that spring.’*

<walk towards the door>

m: I opened the sliding door of the studio, walked towards the entrance, and went out from the museum, Then I crossed the street, and climbed over the metal fence. Going inside of the reservation, deep into the bushes, looking some ruins of the US Base on my right, I walk further on the worn out concrete road into the woods.
I look around, and listend to the sound.

<look at the clock, check time>

2013.2.16. 16:05 start listening

in the distance, a car passing

just behind me, something falls down from the tree

a dog barks, from somewhere

over the sky, an airplane crosses

trees and branches swaying in a wind

rain drops start to fall down on the trees and the fallen leaves on the ground

all around, birds calling

in front of me, a stream of water

<look at the clock, check the time>

16:15 finish listening

