

The Sound of the Picture. Sounds collected during my tour of Europe.

A microphone has been drawn across canvasses. The sound of the picture. Small bits of sound, fragments from different selected works of art, have then been recorded in a continuous series and edited to make an endless loop:

Drei Kühe auf der Weide 1646, Paulus Potter, Civico Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Milano, Schlachtschiff + Witwe + Schleier, 1916, Giacomo Balla, 1871-1956, Museum Ludwig, Bonaparte franchissant les Alpes, Paul Delaroche 1797-1850, Musée du Louvre, Paris, Akt auf Sofa liegend, Otto Mueller 1874-1930, Staatsgalerie moderner Kunst, München, Stevns Klint med Højerup Kirke, 1842, P.C. Skovgaard 1817-1875.....

The enclosed soundtrack is a 2 min. "test collection".

The European cultural heritage as being expressed in the masterpieces of art, scanned into a non-convertible format. That sort of fragile memory. A composition in which lines are drawn in a crisscross pattern across Europe.

Tekst skrevet i 1994

In an adjoining room was yet another computer. It made a scratching sound. In this case it was not pictures, but sounds from the tour of Europe. Sounds collected by lightly touching the works of the art museums with a microphone. A microphone has been drawn across the canvasses. He has recorded the sound of the picture. Small bits of sound, fragments from different selected works have then been

recorded in a continuous series and edited digitally on a computer to make an endless loop of sound. The resulting sound is violent, brutal, but also minimal. At the same time energetic and monotonous. Screen and keyboard had been removed from the computer. There it was: an unassailable piece of hardware with its scratching sound - not loud, it sounded like the last few drops in a coffee machine. The computer was flanked by a bouquet of flowers. A pictorial counterpart to the compositional principle behind the endless scratching sound of the computer. The bouquet of flowers also referred to the location of the exhibition room, viz. Linnésgade, right next to the vegetable market in Copenhagen. Carl von Linné (1707-78) was one of the great figures of the Age of Enlightenment in Sweden. As a professor of natural history in Uppsala he introduced the double name system for plants and made a pioneer contribution to the founding of classification systems for plants. Besides undertaking a number of research travels himself he also sent innumerable young men out travelling to botanize and collect, with the single purpose of gaining insight into the work of the Creator.

At the exhibition in Århus Jan Skovgård connected the computer which had the scratching sound image to the telephone answering machine of the exhibition room. When calls came through, the answering

machine would start after the first ring, and it almost sounded as if the connection had been interrupted, as if something was wrong at the local telephone company. Unknowingly the caller had been drawn into part of the exhibition, and lent an ear to a "superficial" documentary. A scratching sound which made all other communication via the telephone net impossible during the whole exhibition period. In addition, this exhibition room acted as a centre and a base for an