

Making waves

In the 1960s and 70s, as Robert Smithson and Walter de Maria were challenging the sanctity of the gallery and moving outside to create their famous earthworks, a new generation of artists were attempting to shift our attention from the *what* to the *where* – from the art object to the physical space the object occupies. In this issue we examine sound art from its beginnings in the 1960s to the current practice of contemporary artists working in the field such as Janet Cardiff, Bill Fontana, Carsten Nicolai and Albert Oehlen.

Anthony Huberman celebrates the work of sound pioneers Max Neuhaus, Alvin Lucier, La Monte Young, Barry Le Va and Bruce Nauman. Seth Kim-Cohen profiles Steven Vitiello, best known for his World Trade Center project of 1999 in which he attached microphones to the windows of Lower Number One's 91st floor. Since the destruction of the Twin Towers in 2001 Vitiello's work, in addition to capturing sounds beyond the reach of most of us, has taken on a new significance as a haunting 'aural portrait of the world pre-9/11'. Michael Bracewell is given a rare interview with the famously reclusive art band Wire, whose most recent album *Send* was described by one American critic as 'deserving of the Turner Prize'.

While the number of artists working with sound has increased dramatically since the 1960s and the medium is now recognised as its own fully fledged category (as much as one wants to have categories at all), museums and galleries have been slow to catch up. As Laurie Anderson laments in her conversation with Christian Marclay, 'When is there going to be a real electronic museum, an institution that understands and likes it?'

Also in this issue, Jessica Morgan, the curator of this year's Reykjavik Festival, investigates the impact of Iceland and its constantly evolving landscape on Dieter Roth, whose work features on this month's cover. Shamim Momin finds the influence of Dennis Cooper, horror movies and teenage angst in the video installations of Sue de Beer. Liz Jobey discusses John Gossage's monumental photographic project to capture Berlin over a period of 11 years before and after the Wall came down. Jay Merrick meditates on the 'sinuous' buildings of Frei Otto, whose new railway station for Stuttgart will open in 2008. And the Iranian film director Abbas Kiarostami gives an exclusive interview to Sukhdev Sandhu on the eve of a festival celebrating his films and photographs.

Dominic Lutyens offers his expert advice on the galleries selling work by the most exciting contemporary glass artists, while Morgan Falconer assesses Rebecca Horn's position in the market over the last 40 years. Daniel Kunitz takes us on an exclusive tour of the art collection of Tim Nye, founder of the legendary New York performance art venue Thread Waxing Space and a new gallery in Gramercy Park. Finally, we bring you reports on the latest international shows and fairs in Chicago, Cologne, London, Berlin, Paris, Los Angeles and New York, and introduce a new column previewing the books to watch out for this month.

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