

THE SHAPE OF SOUND

by Papo Colo, 1996

New York City

Poetica

From the cry of a newborn child. From the big bang of the universe which explodes intermittently and multiplies and immediately revolves on its own axis. Sound travels in civilized waves (music is the organization of sound) that turn into language in order to help us understand what could be silence.

Sound is what interferes in silence. It is what interrupts the quietness. These opposites are complementary. Their contradiction makes things most obvious in the course of civilization; in music, in language, in literature, in brusque changes of discourse and in the subtlety of gestures. Sound is the language of learning, but it is also the prison and limitation of nations. It is communication and the lack of it - to feel part of a group and to feel isolated. It can be complete identity or dubious company. Sounds may be specific or general, free or compressed. Sounds are the imagination of what is visual, be it elastic or concrete, the healing of spirits and illnesses, the stimulation of feelings and the senses. The shape of sound is the infinite distribution of the forms of idleness and work and of the supernatural aesthetic of the invisible.

Sound is exposure and exploration. Its physical signal is beyond civilization because it is part of the human psyche. A kind of instinctive, natural drug that stimulates us, manipulates us and in our favorite chair becomes us when we sit down and listen.

Text for the exhibition at Exit Art NY

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