

# Svensk Musik

SWEDISH MUSIC INFORMATION CENTRE

NEWSLETTER

## Sound Art— intermerging forms of expression

Swedish Sound Art has exploded over the past decade, as more and more people become interested in sound creation as a mental territory – a passage between intermerging forms of expression where genre boundaries are ever fuzzier. Is this art or music, architecture or ecology?

Much of the artistic potential of sound art is about acknowledging the superimpositions that arise as an effect of modern information technology. In the interaction of the visual and the aural, in the exploration of what distinguishes sound from non-sound, the real from the unreal, emerge new forms of communication, new ways of organising sound.



Photo: Oscar Mangione

Lina Selander

An interesting example is Lina Selander, born in 1973 and living in Stockholm. She works with a variety of techniques, with drawing and painting, photography and video, with sounds and printed words. Yet there's still an amazing consistency of both method and expression.

At the end of the 1990s, Lina Selander began to make use of old family snapshots. Sewing  
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Inner pond. Tbilisi History Museum, Tbilisi, 2004

Photo: Lina Selander

## SOUND ART — INTERMERGING ...

► Continuing from page 1 thread into the back of the photographs so that it combined different elements of the images, she let the resulting stitches form the departure point for new works. In one of these, *Reconstruction*, the abstract patterns form a score, which she then converted digitally into electronic sounds. The same material has also been put into a book, *117 av 146 instamaticbilder* (117 out of 146 instamatic photographs), with brief texts describing the details brought out by the stitches. The same texts have also been recorded, to be replayed as part of a performance.

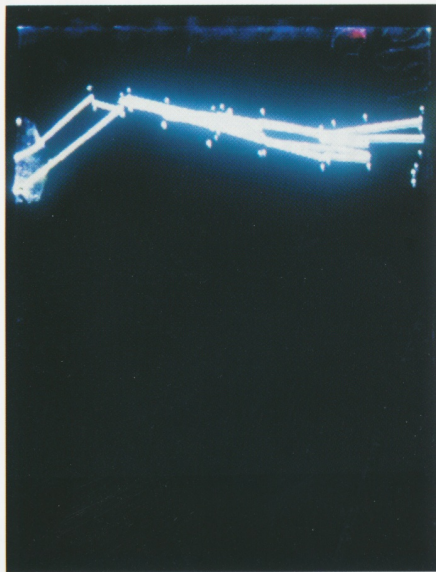


Photo: Lina Selander

Reconstruction

In *Reconstruction*, a red dot traces out the patterns in the sewn pictures from left to right. This cannot be anything but abstract material – a series of punch cards, read one by one – for those who have not seen the photos and who have no idea of their personal meaning. However, there's still a melancholy to the work, a strong sense of human contact that seems to have something to do with loss and distance.

Her video *27 Kilometer Drawing* consists of power lines filmed from a train window. The cables seem to tremble in the air, and gradually instil in the viewer a sense of giddiness in their being at once stationary and in motion. The images zoom past, but you haven't moved an inch. It's extremely repetitive, conveying a peculiar sensation of emptiness and non-communication, yet strikingly beautiful.

The soundtrack to the video installation *Inner Pond* consists of a fragment of Thomas Tallis's renaissance motet "If ye love me" peppered with the crackling of an old vinyl LP. The phrases are played backwards, however, and the psychedelic lyric this creates sounds instead like "Save me". The contemplative and exquisite layers of colour that materialise derive from a rectangle that has been squeezed into a circle. What you see is an inner space, a pool in which to immerse yourself – and perhaps drown.

Lina Selander is just one of many artists who use sound art to explore the nature of reality. And it's refreshing to see that many of the younger generation are women, in the past decade notably Hanna Hartman, Ida Lundén, Ann Rosén, Liv Strand, Jenny Sunesson, Johanna Billing and Lise-Lotte Norelius.

Magnus Haglund, freelance critic and writer  
*English translation:* Neil Betteridge

**ALONG** with Johanna Billing, Daniel Skoglund and Daniel Rozenhall, Lina Selander is featured on the first of the Swedish Music Information Centre's DVD series *Sound Art, The Swedish Scene*. The second DVD includes Johanna Rosenqvist, Marja-Leena Sillanpää, Erik Bünger and Henrik Rylander. The series, which will market Swedish sound art abroad, will eventually comprise five DVDs, with four artists per disk.

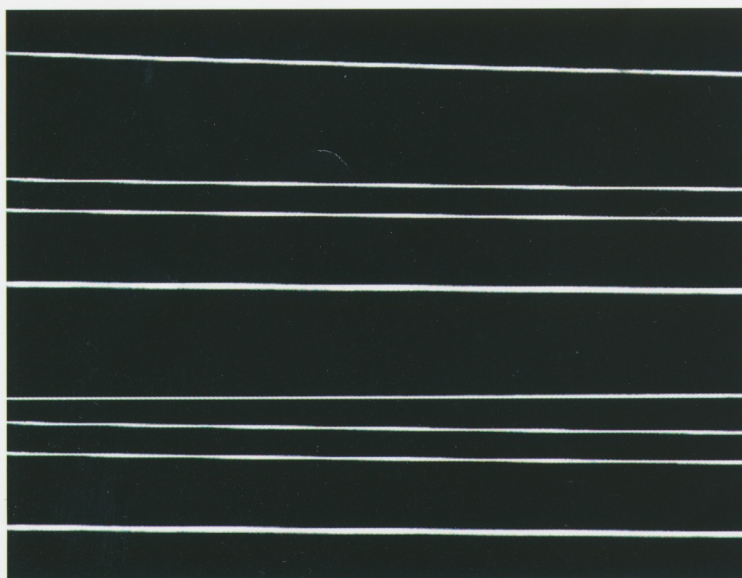


Photo: Lina Selander

27 Kilometer Drawing