

Katrin Bucher

(from: "Tuning in - An Immersion into the Space of the Kunsthaus", catalogue, Kunsthaus Graz 2003)

In Space 02, the lower exhibition venue, the Austrian artist, Peter Ablinger, who lives in Berlin, has created a twelve-part sound system which structurally refers to twelve-tone composition of the early twentieth century. Through being personally interpreted by the visitors, this sound system becomes an independent, free composition.

"WEISS/WEISSLICH 27d" is a walk-in installation which from the total of all sounds, the so-called white noise, extracts twelve partial spectrums. Individual sound fields from this computer-synthesised noise resound from twelve loudspeakers and can be clearly distinguished from one another by the visitors. As they move around the room they experience these differences and perceive them as sequences of notes. (The psycho-acoustic phenomenon that comes into play here perceives each 12th of the white noise spectrum as a tone and not as noise, although by definition tone and noise are opposites). Like related colour tones in painting, our perception can only distinguish the differences by comparing the sound nuances. While walking around the room, the differences can be heard as associates notes. The composition that thus emerges is directly linked with the experience of the room, which brings movement and hearing together in an unusual way. Orientation in the space becomes a personal musical composition.