

WATER Shadows : Tributary

Artist- Julia White

- **Setting up the space:**

(at home) get comfortable, open up your laptop

(at home with mini ‘water temple’ sculpture) *see instructions below for setting up the sculpture in a space; **see below for instructions on how to open the audio compartment and adjust volume levels etc.

-Listen and enjoy the watery soundscape as it is; improvise if you wish and are in a position to do so! (see *Score* below)

You may leave the Arduino microcontroller plugged in and on indefinitely; it will continue to play all audio files in a loop. There is an advantage to this; by keeping it plugged in you will be sure to hear all of the audio files and there are a lot!...if you turn it off, each time you turn it on it will start at the beginning.

(on display) Set up the mini ‘water-temple’ tributary sculpture in an available space, preferably uncluttered. It may be placed on the floor, a pedestal, a table of any size, a shelf; a good height for a table is somewhere between 31” – 42” *see instructions below for setting up the sculpture in a space.

-Audio components are inside the sound sculpture and already turned ON; you just have to plug them in. The Arduino micro-controller inside the piece will automatically play the audio files continuously in a loop as long as it is plugged into a power source **see below for instructions on how to open the audio compartment and adjust volume levels, troubleshooting etc.

(in a performance space) Place WATER Shadows : Tributary sculpture on the floor at or near the centre of the stage. In advance, remove the bottom of the base so that you are removing the electronic components temporarily so the sculpture can sit flush on the stage (without wires sticking out).

It is placed here for the musicians to tune into, visually and symbolically. There will be a video projection that holds visual cues. Audio will be amplified through the speaker system in the space, not through the sculpture as it is not loud enough

-Participants are gathered either standing, in seats or on the floor around the ‘water temple’ with a view of the screen

Score

- **(at home)** Open the audio files for WATER Shadows : Tributary. Next, open the video WATER Shadows : Tributary, in a new window (it is 85 seconds long with no audio component)
- Turn sound on laptop all the way down.
- Draw your attention inwards for a moment and listen for how you will choose an 85 second segment from the body of audio tracks of field recordings that I have provided
It may be a ‘magic pick’ where you create your own method of choosing ‘randomly’, with numbers, or listen intentionally to find resonance with a segment that inspires you. Go with the flow and choose a place to begin. Just make sure that the segment is at least 85 seconds long
- Press play on the audio segment while quickly opening the video, steadily raising the volume when the video begins to play, fading in the sound over 5 seconds.
- Note- you may layer as many 85 second segments simultaneously as you wish, mimicking the experience of boundaries dissolving through the integrated field of sound (as in the original WATER Shadows installation that had four channels of loops blending, in endless new combinations)

- **(in a performance space)** In advance, draw your attention inwards for a moment and listen for how you will choose an 85 second segment from the body of audio tracks of field recordings that I have provided.
-It may be a ‘magic pick’ where you create your own method of choosing ‘randomly’, use numbers or some other invented system, or simply listen intentionally to find resonance with a segment that inspires you. Go with the flow and choose a place to begin. Just make sure that the segment is at least 85 seconds long

- **(at home or in a performance space)** Take in the first image in the video with your eyes; tune into the dreamlike sculptural landscape of my WATER Shadows installation in the grain silo at the Electric Eclectics Festival, summer 2016. While this image remains on the screen, individuals and musicians are invited to simply listen to the voice of water, both as it flows within ourselves, in our veins and our creativity and as it is experienced in the world, through the field recordings. In this space of listening, the audience and the vocalists may tune into and connect with the part of themselves that is water
- The first 20 seconds of the piece holds space for this listening AS WATER
- At the 20-second mark, the image on the screen then fades into that of ice crystals on my studio window that look like ‘water temples’. The transition from the sculptures to the ice crystals is the **visual cue** for the non-verbal vocal improvisation to begin. It can be performed by an individual or as a group. Improvise from this place of connection until the images of water as ice flow back into images of the ‘water temple’ sculptures.

WATER Shadows : Tributary is an invitation for people to participate in this potent dialogue with water, just as I did in the creative process of making this work. It is my intention to establish a sonic and sculptural space for gathering and listening, to WATER as WATER. In this way we may collectively become 'water temples', each of us holding space through our sonic architecture, for the voice of water to be heard.

- The next **visual cue** is when the installation in the silo appears again. At this transition the vocal improvising will fade out, with just the sound of the water in the audio recordings remaining.
- The **visual cue** of the image of the WATER Shadows installation is ALSO the cue to slowly fade the sound out over the last 5 seconds as the video naturally fades and then comes to an end at the 85 second mark.

****setting up the sculpture in a space :***

-The long rubber, river-like tendrils should be arranged organically around the base, like flowing water. When facing each corner of the 'water temple' platform, always arrange the rubber so they are flowing to the left, over the corners a little in this winding gesture, swirled around the base tightly if the space requires (so it looks like the 'water temple' is rising out of a pool) or if there is more space at the base, it can meander to the left, curling around then stretching out to the left like rivers with tributaries. Be playful and intuitive with this! (see photo).

***** how to open the audio compartment and adjust volume levels, troubleshooting etc. --***

The volume can be adjusted if need be by gently removing the base of the 'water temple'. Gently lay it down on its back so the base is revealed and ease the bottom away from the base. It is attached with Velcro and the audio components are loosely attached to the underside of the bottom. Be easy about it and it will all stay in place. Find the speaker with the volume knob and turn the dial up or down. You can also adjust the volume on the Arduino, but it is already set to full volume. If for whatever reason there is no sound, just gently jiggle the speaker wire at the Arduino jack to ensure there is a full connection. Sometimes if there is no sound it is just a matter of unplugging the Arduino from a power source and then plugging it back in.

-There is also headphone jack in the Arduino if there is a need to have the installation on display with headphones rather than speakers due to sound restrictions