

Bailey Polkinghorne

Phone: +358 46 681 4162

Email: baileypolkinghorne@gmail.com

ID: 110297-329B



Personal Statement

I am a highly motivated and hardworking individual with an eagerness to learn and develop personal skills in a practical setting. My shorter-term career goal is to become a fully-qualified and experienced AV technician, with aspirations of moving into sound design, sound art and installation art in the future.

The work of my bachelor's and master's theses involves studies in acoustic ecology; mainly exploring natural environments such as gardens and forests. My work takes these explorations and seeks to develop methodologies in which humans can create, manipulate and perform with sound via interactions with these environments; without disrupting the biodiversity of said environments or harming the objects and non-human agents that dwell within them. During my time in Finland, I have been developing this work and allowing it to take the form of multiple installations and sound art pieces.

In my spare time, I enjoy making electronic music under a variety of monikers. My soundscapes use cassette tape loops, modular synthesisers, and field recordings to create layered, atmospheric compositions. Through processes of augmentation and degradation, I attempt to transform raw auditory material into resonant echoes of nostalgia and spectral presences. My connection to nature, informed by frequent forest explorations, imbues my work with an organic, primal quality.

Key Skills and Attributes

- Knowledge of various DAWs (Pro Tools, Logic Pro etc.)
- Knowledge of mixing and mastering techniques.
- Knowledge of studio recording and field recording techniques.
- Knowledge of live sound mixing techniques.
- Knowledge of software and hardware synthesisers.
- Basic to intermediate understanding of various coding environments (Pure Data, Max MSP, Arduino, Bela Development Platform etc.)
- Basic fabrication skills involving wood and metal work, soldering, circuit bending.

Education

Aalto University

(2019 - 2022)

MA - Sound in New Media (Grade: 4.13/5)

Bournemouth University

(2016 - 2019)

BSc - Music and Sound Production Technology (Degree: 2:2)

South Downs College (HSDC as of 09/2017)

(2013 – 2016)

BTEC Level Three National Extended Diploma - Music Technology

(Certificate: Distinction – Merit – Merit)

BTEC Level Two Diploma - Music Technology

(Certificate: Merit)

GCSE - English Language (Grade: C)

City of Portsmouth Boy's School (Trafalgar School as of 04/2015)

(2009 - 2013)

GCSE:

- Maths (Grade: C)
- English Language (Grade: D)
- English Literature (Grade: D)
- Science (Grade: E)
- Art & Graphics (Grade: C)
- Resistant Materials (Grade: F)
- DiDA: Diploma in Digital Applications (Grade: UU)

Current and Previous Employment

Taideyliopisto (Teatterikorkeakoulu)

AV Mestari

Haapaniemenkatu, Helsinki, Finland

(08/2023 – present)

- Duties within the support services for artistic work
- Handling equipment rentals for classes and students' individual projects
- Maintenance of sound workspaces and educating both students and teachers on their use

Helsinki Open Waves (HOW)

Freelance Sound Technician

Kulttuurikeskus Caisa, Helsinki, Finland

(04/2022 - present)

- Curation of global music playlists
- Streaming of playlists and pre-recorded podcasts
- Livestreaming, recording and editing of podcasts and live shows
- Organising equipment rentals and inventory

Art For All Festival (2021: Invisible Connections) (2022: Under-Ground)

Freelance Audiovisual Technician

Helsinki-Malmin Lentoasema, Helsinki, Finland (07 - 08/2021)

Kaisaniemen Kasvitieteellinen Puutarha, Helsinki, Finland (07 – 08/2022)

- Attending weekly meetings to discuss event planning and equipment list
- Consulting with artists about tech requirements and helping build their installations
- Contacting and arranging musical performances for the opening night
- Setting up, operating, dismantling and transporting audio-visual and stage equipment

Aalto University

Homebase Monitor/Student Guide

Otaniemi, Espoo, Finland

(11/2020 – 10/2021)

- Monitoring use of student working areas
- Keeping usage in line with pandemic guidelines
- Providing guidance on use of student working areas

Aalto University

ARTS Tutor

Otaniemi, Espoo, Finland

(06/2020 - 12/2020)

- Tutoring for new students of MA New Media Design and Production Programme
- Helping new students settle into their studies and the New Media community
- Helping new students settle into Helsinki, providing guidance and counselling on housing, travel, food, lifestyle and events in the area

StaffPoint

Temporary Staff (Bar and Restaurant)

Helsinki, Finland

(01/2020 - present)

- Shift work from various bars and restaurants across Helsinki and Espoo
- Roles include: blocker, food-runner, dishwasher
- Valid hygiene pass

Debra Charity Shop: Furniture and Electrical

Sales Assistant (maternity cover)

Winton, Dorset, England, UK

(08/2018 – 07/2019)

- Sale of furniture and electrical goods
- Heavy duty cleaning of furniture
- Function testing of electrical items
- Booking and organising deliveries and donation collections
- Delivery of flyers and pamphlets to promote the charity
- Cleaning and organising of the stock room
- Cash handling and shop closing duties

The Iver Makeup Academy (Pinewood Studios) Sound Recordist + more... (Work Experience)

Iver Heath, Buckinghamshire, England, UK

Volunteer roles on 2 separate dates:

- (15/08/2018)
Recording voice and dialogue on location
- (28/09/2018)
Prosthetic Facial Hair Model

Electric Star Live LTD (Bestival 2018) On-site Noise Monitoring (Freelance)

Wareham, Dorset, England, UK

(03 - 04/08/2018)

- Consulting with sound engineers to keep noise levels below 98dB
- Documenting sound pressure levels
- Civil Money Claim filed against Electric Star Live LTD due to nonpayment

Greene King: Spyglass and Kettle Waiter/Bar Assistant

Southbourne, Dorset, England, UK

(05/2018 - 06/2018)

- Sale of food and alcoholic beverages
- Taking customer orders to their tables
- Managing and cleaning of bar
- Cleaning of dishes, glasses and seating areas
- Cleaning and closing duties

Rock Reef Bournemouth Pier Café Assistant (Seasonal Contract)

Bournemouth, Dorset, England, UK

(07/2017 - 09/2017)

- Food preparation and sales
- Barista
- Preparations of parties and functions
- Independent management and cleaning of hotdog and ice cream stalls
- Cleaning and closing duties

The Cooperative Sales Assistant

Portchester, Hampshire, England, UK

(9/2015 - 12/2015)

- Cashier duties
- Rotation of stock
- Organising stock from deliveries

Artistic and Extracurricular Projects

Art For All ry – Travelling Fabric

Viikki, Helsinki, Finland

(09/11/2024)

Using methods of performance art, the second edition of Traveling Fabric studied the nature of a 22 × 2 meter jute fabric through various themes: nomadism, human-nature relations, sensory experiences and contemporary society.

The performance was a result of the collaboration between three performance artists and a sound designer, where they experimented with the fabric in the fields and forests of Viikki. In the art work the performers moved on top of, under, inside, around and entangled in the fabric. Through rolling, wrapping and knotting, the fabric shape shifted and travelled from the open fields to the heart of the forest where the performers "played" the fabric and the natural environment using contact microphones on their fingertips.

The collaboration between the artists, audience as well as the natural environment created a site-specific work of sound and performance art.

Social: https://www.instagram.com/p/DCMOZoANOUL/?hl=en&img_index=1



The Chopping, The Stirring, The Occasion

Myymälä2, Helsinki, Finland

(07/12/2023)

Opening performance by myself for Vytautas Bikauskas' installation 'the chopping, the stirring, the occasion'. It is a food artwork that involves communal cooking, data gathering, and a data-driven soundscape of preparation.

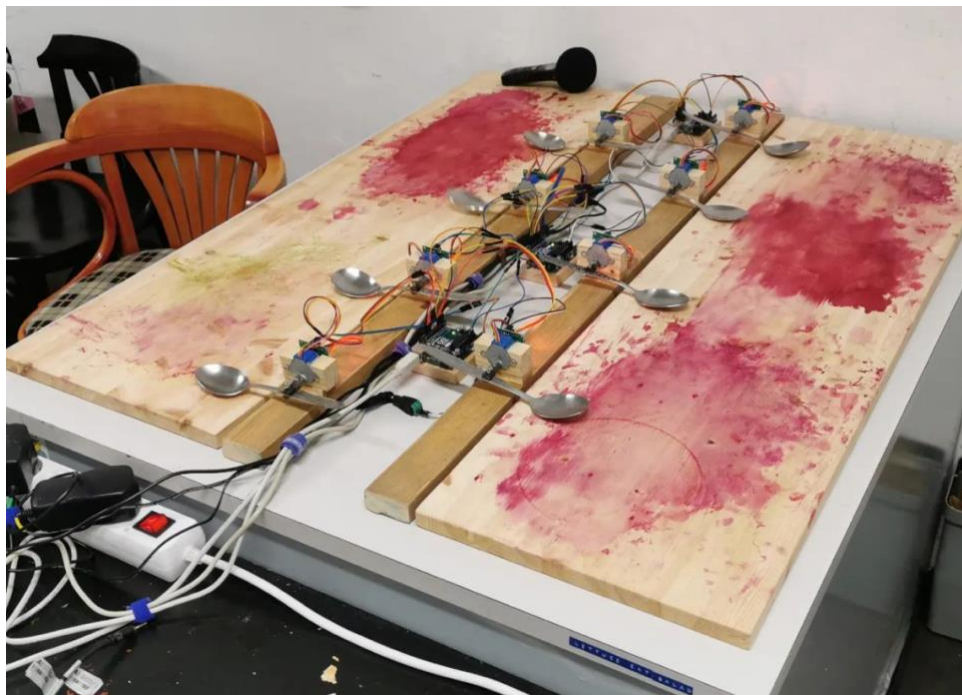
First is a communal preparation of a traditional Lithuanian dish, a cold beetroot soup 'šaltibarščiai'. During the preparation, chopping sounds are recorded with surface microphones attached to the chopping board. The finished soup and conversation are shared between participants.

Afterwards, the collected data is replayed on a loop as a perpetual, endless ritual of preparing a meal for guests. Utensils set on stepper motors gently hit the cutting board, recreating a domestic soundscape of anticipation. This is combined with recordings of the cooking conversation.

I put some contact mics on the cutting board and added effects to both the spoons and the past conversation via instruments by Koma Elektronik and Bastl Instruments for the performance, while Vytautas served his soup to the audience.

Link: <https://www.myyymala2.com/?p=8240>

Social: https://www.instagram.com/p/C5_QLGUIVT7/?hl=en&img_index=1



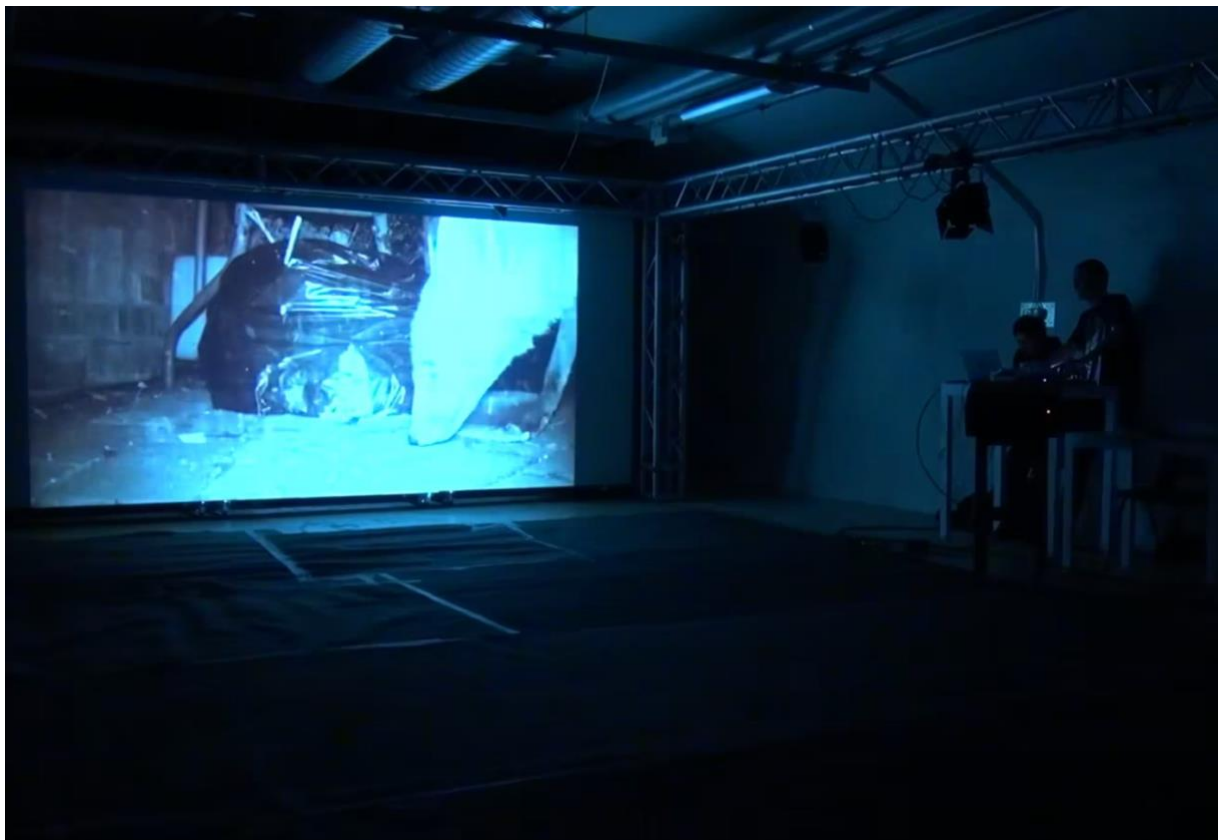
Ääniaalto VIII

*Vapaan Taiteen Tila, Helsinki, Finland
(15/09/2023)*

After a year-long break, me and Utkarsh returned to Ääniaalto as B.U.G for the second time to display the second revision of our “Kaiho” performance.

This time, we had gathered some night-time trail cam recordings from my grandparents’ garden in Waterloooville, UK, displaying the hidden lives of the local hedgehogs, mice and foxes that live in the area. Utkarsh made easy work of combining this footage with other pieces of found footage he had collected, sequencing them and adding effects, meanwhile I created the sonic atmosphere with various field recordings I had made throughout the year prior. A lot of these field recordings had been taken on a small microcassette dictaphone, during a Suzanne Ciani concert at Tempeliaukio Church.

Link: <https://vimeo.com/916861782>



Mapsion Festival 2022

*Vuojoen Kartano, Eurajoki, Finland
(15/10/2022)*

Mapsion Festival 2022 was the first edition of a projection mapping competition in the estate of Vuojoki Mansion in Eurajoki. As well as the competition, there was a roster of AV-live performances and AV installations.

Myself and Utkarsh were approached about bringing our live performance from Ääniaalto VII to a larger setting. As well as performing, we provided technical assistance in the days prior to the event opening, and Utkarsh was asked to be part of the jury for deciding the winners of the competition.



Valopolku (Light Path) 2022

Tohloppi, Tampere, Finland

(14 - 21/10/2022)

Valopolku is an event from Valotapamary that takes place in Tampere annually. This edition was a continuation of the event that took place in the forest of Tohloppi in 2019, just behind YLE's production house.

I was tasked with making a small, interactive sound installation for the visitors. With the event being in the forest during the rainy period of Autumn, my work was already cut out for me; I chose to use the objects and materials in the forest to my advantage. The resulting piece makes use of a collection of polypores that had recently sprouted on a tree stump, which are already very percussive by nature. By attaching contact microphones to the tree, these mushrooms are amplified even further and passed through various time-based effects.



Mänttä Art Festival 2022

Peliko, Mänttä-Vilppula, Finland

(06 – 11/06/2022)

Around a week before the start of Mänttä Art Festival, I received a call from Antti Ikonen; the course leader of MA Sound in New Media and my thesis supervisor at the time. He asked me if I would be able to help two artists, Petri Kumela and Antti Lötjönen with the realisation of an interactive sound installation they had planned to display at the festival.

For the installation, Petri and Antti wanted to use the audience's steps on the main staircase in Peliko to trigger a variety of sounds that they had recorded prior to the exhibition. For this, I devised a Pure Data patch and an array of contact mics that listen to each step. Steps that exceeded a certain threshold would then randomly change the audio file that was playing at that moment, until the next loud step.

Although I was not compensated for my time, nor credited in the printed programme or the website, I very much appreciate Antti Ikonen for granting me the opportunity to help Petri and Antti with their piece, as well as travelling up to Mänttä-Vilppula to experience some of the other pieces that were displayed.

NOTE: Unfortunately, neither Petri, Antti or myself had the time or ability to properly document the piece, and the festival did not document the piece either.

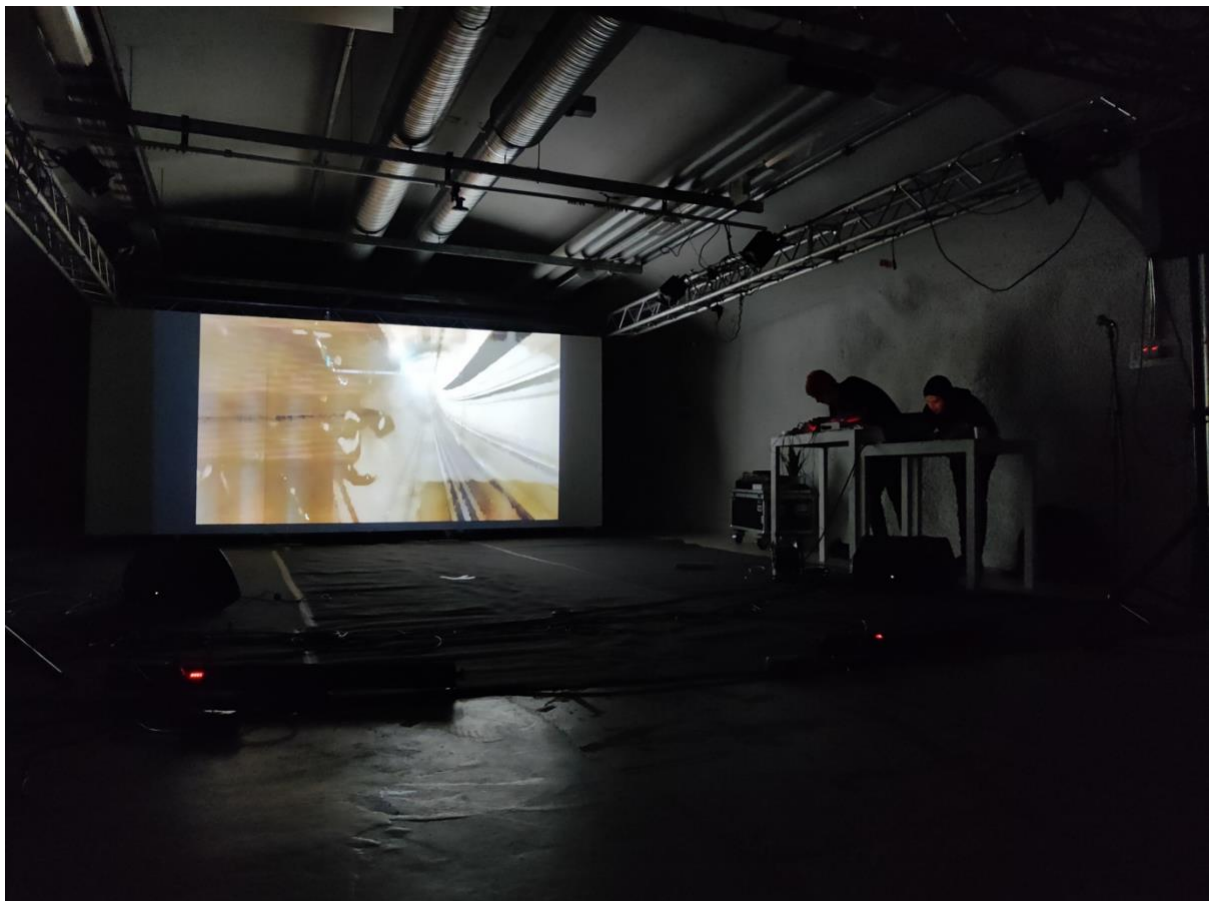
Ääniaalto VII

*Vapaan Taiteen Tila, Helsinki, Finland
(24/09/2022)*

Ääniaalto VII took place during two separate weekends in September at Vuotalo and Vapaan Taiteen Tila; with mine and my friend Utkarsh's performance being presented at the latter location. This performance also marked the end of my time at Aalto University as a student.

Our performance combined audio (from myself) and visuals (from Utkarsh) to investigate our approach to nostalgia and lo-fi aesthetics. Utkarsh, being an old film buff, has no trouble combining found footage, his own footage, and CRT-like effects to create complex visuals. Having already refined my use of cassette tape loops and effects, combining our practices allowed us to explore the alteration and degradation of old memories and create an immersive audio-visual experience.

Link: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/9957986/video/775564178>



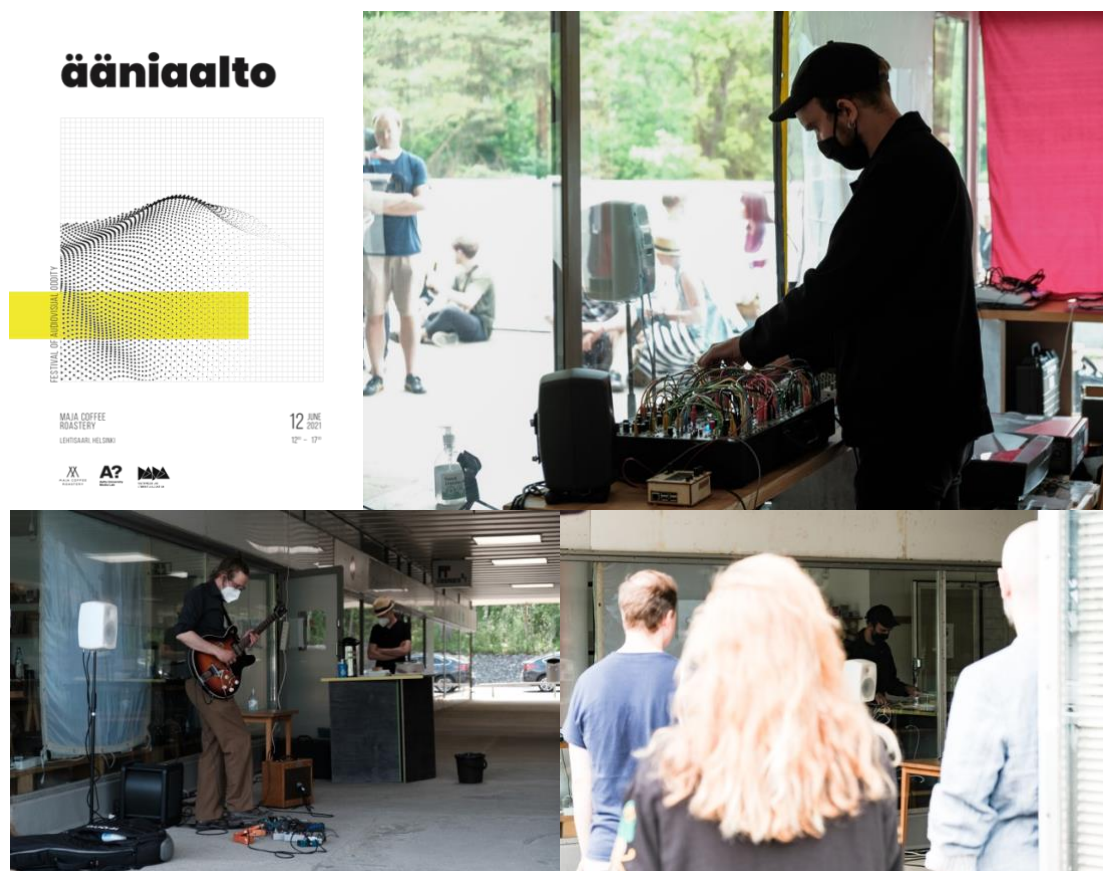
Ääniaalto VI

*Maja Coffee Roastery, Lehtisaari, Helsinki, Finland
(12/06/2021)*

Ääniaalto VI was a small audio-visual art/experimental music festival that took place after pandemic restrictions in the greater Helsinki area and Uusimaa had been eased. Myself and a handful of other active volunteers, in association with DADA ry, created the event to help jumpstart music and arts events within the Aalto Media Lab community and experimental music communities in the Helsinki area.

My main responsibilities were as a sound technician; I was responsible for setting up and packing down audio equipment, sound checks and live sound mixing. I was also heavily involved in the production of the event; I was responsible for contacting and arranging the venue, the open call and contacting artists, and scheduling the day's sound checks and performances.

The festival ran very smoothly, with around 50 people overall in attendance (1m distanced with masks). We also streamed the event via the Aalto Media Lab Twitch account, with over 100 people in attendance.



The Wild State: Networked (ARS Electronica Festival)

Kunstuniversität Linz Campus, Hauptplatz, Linz, Austria

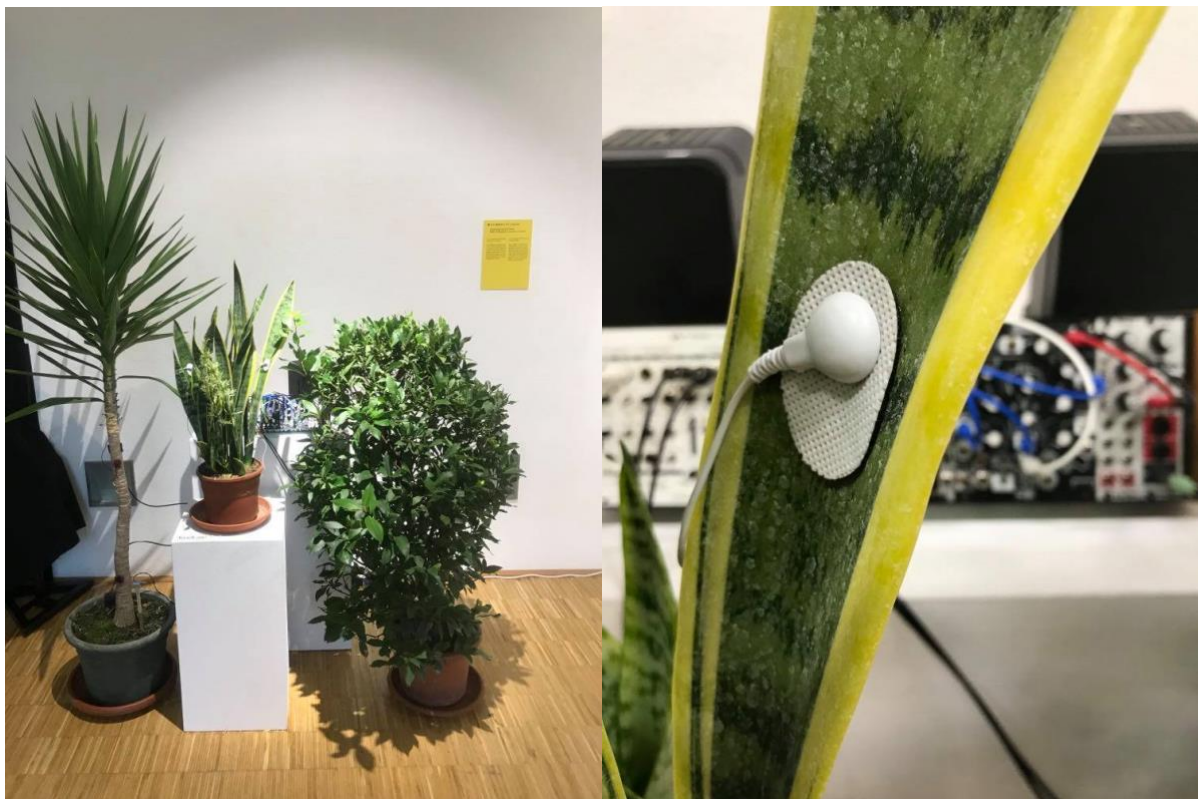
(9 - 13/09/2020)

Myself and another collective of students were chosen to represent Aalto Media Lab at the Kunstuniversität Linz campus in an exhibition involving several other partnering universities across Europe and beyond as part of the ARS Electronica Festival.

We, the representatives of Aalto Media Lab, were incredibly lucky to be able to attend the event in person; especially during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone involved in sending us over, as well as everyone involved in organising the event for making us welcome and taking very good care of us.

My installation involved work I had been developing in the years prior to this event as part of my bachelor's and master's theses. It was composed of a eurorack modular synthesiser calibrated to perform in conjunction with contact mics and biometric feedback technology. Contact mics were fixed to the plants and the audio fed into the rack. Electrodes were fixed to one of the plants and fed into a module that converts biofeedback into control voltages. The audio is sent through a granular synthesiser and the control voltage from the biofeedback module is used to control the parameters of said granular synthesiser. The result was an interactive sound piece in which the audience could interact with the plants to both create and control sound.



Ääniaalto V (Flux Island)

Vuotalo, Vuosaari, Helsinki, Finland

(07/02/2020)

This installation was made alongside other Aalto University students', lecturers' and alumni's works, though the event was not limited to this location and date.

The theme of the event and the resulting installations leaned towards environmental consciousness and conservationism, so my installation also followed these ideals but tied them in with my own aesthetic.

The piece is highly influenced by William Basinski's "Disintegration Loops" as well as other musicians and content creators on social media platforms. In this installation, a tape loop is wrapped around a destructive force and depleted over time. In this case, the destructive force responsible for depleting the magnetic film on the tape was a tree trunk.

The result after multiple hours was not as expected; the magnetic tape depleted only a small amount, but the trunk forced the tape to turn over during every pass. This created two scenes: one with the recordings and one that was more lo-fi because of the tape flipping over, which had an unexpected but pleasing result.



Pori Film Festival

*Valimo-sali, Pori, Finland
(27/10 – 1/11/2019)*

Audio visual installation twisting the narrative of Argus Panoptes, the Greek giant with a thousand eyes, within the contemporary context of surveillance and data collection; all while being sight-specific to Pori as a city.

This installation was made in collaboration with other fellow students on the Sound in New Media degree at Aalto University. My own personal contributions include field recordings made in Pori that were used as part of the installations soundscape as well as helping to set up, check periodically and pack down the equipment used.

As part of the festival, artists were also asked to prepare a series of performances during the opening night. Myself and two other students collaborated by using modular synths, Pure Data and acoustic instrumentation (namely violin) to create an ambient electro-acoustic set that lasted thirty minutes.

