

Mauerraum Wandraum 1995-2001

For viola & electronics in a four part video concert-installation

1. Mauerraum Wandraum

"The four spaces - the icy cavern of the Rhône glacier, the basement of the former Steinfels soap factory in Zurich, the viaduct on the railway route to the Gotthard and the soundproof torture chamber of an S&M bordello in Zurich's red light district - all have their own unique visual and spatial mood, their own temperature and acoustics. Charlotte Hug sets out to investigate the space, reacts in the form of musical notes, and then delves further into both modes. She senses the sound within the sound box, the musical pitch of the room."

"A dialogue with the space: the room provides the impulse for the notes. A musical companion piece on surfaces and colours, on temperatures, odours and architecture. The sounds unite the seen and the unseen." *Nadine Olonetzky 2001*

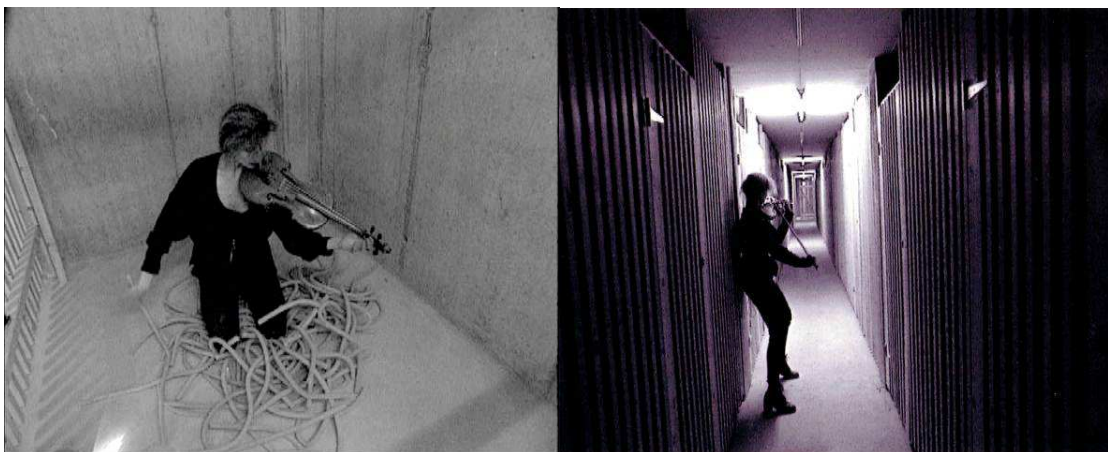
2. Mauerraum Wandraum, five spaces

Rhône In the ice tunnels of the Rhône glacier



In the twilight the ice expands as it cools with multifarious crackling sounds against the polyrhythm of the drops. In the autumn the ice melts forming hollows which amplify the sounds of the viola, as if electronically – but the glacier is a living resonator.

Steinfels In the cellar of the former Steinfels soap factory



A dull sound rings out a hundred times on the wooden slats. Only one note awakens the natural resonance of the space and drowns out everything. Found strands of foam serve as a bow for the viola.

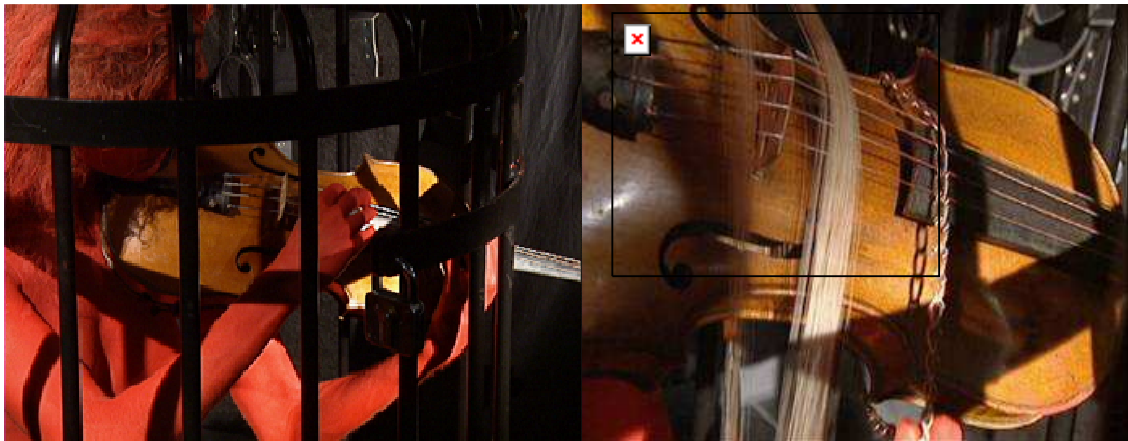
Intschi Intschi Arni in the Gotthard region



Intschi Intschi Arni in the Gotthard region

Sound travels upwards. In the viaduct, on the other hand, it rebounds from the ceiling and the walls, sucked through the perforations of the floor and flung down into the river Reuss, accompanied by countless flutter echoes.

Sado Sado S&M torture chamber in the Zurich red light district



This soundproof space is full of acoustic moments, which can never escape and remain full of secrets.

Aggregat

The fifth location is an imaginary space, which is created anew with each performance. Acoustic material taken from the other four locations is mixed on several tracks to create a primal sound. On each occasion new elements are accentuated, so that the raw material enters into a dialogue with the composed solo voice.

MauerrauM Wandraum was commissioned by Tage für neue Musik and the city of Zurich

Premiere, Tage für Neue Musik Zurich at the theatre Winkelwiese 1998
Solo CD MauerrauM Wandraum STV 00, videos by Alberto Venzago