

Walshe, J. (2014) *THE TOTAL MOUNTAIN*. Performed by J. Walshe [SWR Donaueschinger Musiktage 2014, Germany. 18 October 15:00 – 18:00].

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THE TOTAL MOUNTAIN by Jennifer Walshe
Saturday, 18 October 2014, 15.00 – 18.00
Nathan Phillips Square, Toronto, Canada

Jennifer Walshe
The total mountain (2014)
Premiere
Commissioned by the SWR
Duration: approx. 40 minutes

Jennifer Walshe, Performance
Herta Müller, voice
Michael Lentz, Michael Hirsch, voice
Stefan Blum, drums
Gunnar Geisse, live electronics / laptop: real-time sampling & processing, transphonation, virtual instruments, samples, sound design
Axel Kühn, bass clarinet, soprano saxophone

Students of the German Literature Institute Leipzig, speaker choir: Julian Affeld, Mario Apel, Maja-Maria Becker, Yevgeniy Breyger, Sandra Burkhardt, Felix Dachsel, Gregor Däubler, Jan Drees (guest), Mariana Grass, Tim Holland, Ulrike Feibig, Hannes Fuhrmann, Christina Hansen, Christian Hoffmann, Jan Hoffmann, Margarita Iov, Irina Karelina (guest), Synke Köhler, Artur Krutsch, Domenico Müllensiefen, Daniel Schmidt, Alexander Schnorbusch, Helen Schröder (guest), Paula Schweers, Edda Sickinger, Juliane Stadelmann, Manuel Stallbaumer, Isabel Stunder, Sebastian Weihrauch, Juliana Zöllner.
Head: Uschi Krosch.

This concert accentuates the spaces between language, words and music. With Josef Anton Riedl, Michael Lentz and Jennifer Walshe, three authors of different ... Jennifer Walshe's musical poetry is based on a dense and poetic network of different media constellations, in this piece videos and live electronics, to which she gives a great performance through her charismatic stage presence. The focus is on differentiated voice types in different emotional situations and cultural contexts.

Every artistic movement since the beginning of time is an attempt to somehow smuggle more of what the artist considers to be reality into their artwork. Zola: "Every true artist is more or less a realist in his own opinion." Braque's goal: "To get as close to reality as possible."

- David Shields: Reality Hunger

Here, however, I only treated the levels of self and identity with an inward look. The reason that 2012 is so much more interesting than 1912 is that we now have this thing called the Internet in our lives, and this Internet stuff, in McLuhan's sense, has become a true externalization of our inner selves - our memories, our emotions, such a large part of our whole feeling of being and belonging. The Internet took something that was previously in us and moved it outside, making it searchable, crushable, stealable and tinkerable. According to William Gibson, the Internet is a huge consensual hallucination, and at this historic moment there are few people who disagree.

- Douglas Coupland: On Supersurrealism

Aesthetic experiences and objects are now divided into the binary categories of downloadable and non-downloadable.

- Douglas Coupland: On Craft

The popular pre-consciousness ..., the ever-shifting content which - assuming is justified - can be brought to consciousness by the majority of individuals in a given society at a certain historical point in time; what can be called "general knowledge".

- Victor Burgin: The End of Art Theory

But the internet, with its rapid proliferation of memes, creates more extreme forms of modernism than modernism itself ever dreamed of. (...) This type of content is about the quantity of the language that surrounds us and the great difficulty in gaining meaning from such excesses. (...) These forms of writing - word processing, database creation, recycling, deliberate plagiarism, identity encryption or intensive programming, to name a few - have traditionally been considered phenomena outside of literary practice. (...) We do not read: We scan, record, create bookmarks, copy, paste and forward. We are becoming information hoarders and amateur archivists who are desperately collecting, storing and moving artifacts that we will never interact with.

- Kenneth Goldsmith: The Writer as Meme Machine

Jennifer Walshe

Citations:

Walshe, J. SWR Donaueschinger Musiktage (18/10/2014 15:00 – 18:00) THE TOTAL MOUNTAIN (41' 50"). Available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=88-RxHdJwJo> (Accessed: 23/02/2020)

Walshe, J. SWR Donaueschinger Musiktage (18/10/2014 15:00 – 18:00) Musicsprechen.

Available at: <https://www.swr.de/swr-classic/donaueschinger-musiktage/programme/dmt-05-musiksprechen/-/id=2136962/did=14321694/nid=2136962/2r5tgt/index.html> (Accessed: 23/02/2020)

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<https://www.swr.de/swrclassic/donaueschinger-musiktage/Werke-des-Jahres-2014-The-total-mountain,article-sw-670.html>

<https://journalofmusic.com/listing/29-09-14/signing-tony-conrad-jennifer-walsh>
(Accessed: 23/02/2020)

Walshe, J. SWR Donaueschinger Musiktage (18/10/2014 15:00 – 18:00) Concert installations by Chris Newman and Julius Stahl; the performance artist Jennifer Walshe. Available at: <https://www.swr.de/swr2/musik-klassik/Drittes-Blogvideo-Samstag-Konzertinstallationen-von-Chris-Newman-und-Julius-Stahl-die-Performancekuenstlerin,aexavarticle-swr-72740.html> (Accessed: 23/02/2020)