

SCAN: | Directed by Kadet Kuhne | c. 2006

SCAN: is a series of audiovisual works in which human communication is translated into audible frequencies. The movements in the video serve as controls for audio playback and become a tool for instrumentation. Using a customized, programmed interface in Jitter software, a scan line is placed and moved at will over a video playback window. When visual motion crosses this scan line, pre-designated sound samples are triggered and processed in real-time via spectral filtering, granulation, envelope filters and cross-synthesis. Incidental soundtracks are generated with interactive input and response, then recorded to disk in single or multiple layers.

As the progressing patterns of the visual information trigger sounds into a composition, a reconstructed map of the gestures becomes the language itself. The nerve stimulus that causes the initial physical expression becomes transferred into a kinesic action which in turn is expressed in a sound. The choice of sound samples and the sequences of video edits are intended to impose particular psychological states of being directly related to the chosen subject matter. With the absence of words and the presence of a translated score, various levels of interpreting and projecting onto the images are explored.

The video source for each of the SCAN: series is pulled from actual interviews of the chosen subjects, and the questions that I posed were relevant to the subjects themselves. In A COUPLE Jo Gratziano and Anne-Marie Holman discussed their queer relationship memories and dynamics, in SUSKIN SISTERS Romy and Danica talked about growing up together, and in CHRIS MANN and THE LADY'S GLOVE both composers Chris Mann and Laetitia Sonami discussed ideas revolving around their work.

Using the source footage, I completely rearranged the footage to convey my own "narrative," and ordered the sequence of events with a rhythmic or musical movement in mind. CHRIS MANN inspired the series; while interviewing Mann I noticed that his gestures were akin to a conductor and it seemed as though he was creating music out of thin air with his effusive and deliberate mannerisms. With THE COUPLE I manipulated the edits to convey an arc common to all relationships: connection, conflict, resistance, resolution. In SUSKIN SISTERS my aim was to capture an intimate familial bond amongst two women who have unique characteristics but overtly mirror one another. LADY'S GLOVE features Laetitia Sonami who performs with a midi glove as her controller. It was my intention to sort of "play" her glove with sounds of my choosing, while simultaneously capturing her witty and vanguard character.

The sound compositions for each of the SCAN: shorts are designed to complement the content. For example, for CHRIS MANN I selected a sample with an ambient texture to support the flowing, effusive quality of his gestures. I processed the sample with spectral filtering which exacerbates the low frequencies of the sound when his hands were near the table and the high frequencies when his hands were in the air. This gives the illusion of an acoustic space where sound is altered by the location and speed of his hand movements. The sounds chosen for A COUPLE are deliberately harsh and edgy as a correlative to the discordant tension and modulating interplay. The samples in SUSKIN SISTERS were extracted from their actual interview and processed with spectral filtering and other effects. This offers an added layer of familiarity and intimacy, and with both characters' voices hybridized, layered and mixed it's almost as if they have their own language. For THE LADY'S GLOVE multiple samples were selected with the goal of conveying the peculiarities of each action and the quirky expressions of her physique. It was crucial that the sounds all possess an extremely digital and noise-oriented timbre to emphasize the technological nature of Sonami's midi glove. The sensors on the glove that transmit data to her computer each have a function (touch, bend, tilt) which were taken into consideration when selecting the sounds and determining the filter processing.

Credits

Directed and Produced by Kadet Kuhne | Starring: Chris Mann in CHRIS MANN, Jo Gratziano and Anne-Marie Holman in THE COUPLE, Romy and Danica Suskin in SUSKIN SISTERS, Laetitia Sonami in LADY'S GLOVE | Cinematography, editing and score by Kadet Kuhne | Additional music samples by ANON for THE LADY'S GLOVE