

“LIVE INSTALLATION” Gregoire Rousseau 2010.
Live video installation for audio live.

Introduction:

This work brings together many aspects of my artistic practice. First, in the electronic field, my own design to control VHS players through MIDI-audio equipments shows very good usability. This device operates an interface between audio/MIDI machines and video/VHS players.

Then, the visual outcome, that spectator watches, originates from a live performance. I have been performing live audio and video for the last eight years. Live act appears as a strong constant in my artistic work. I wanted to select and extract, by studio video edition, part of my own live. The video clips extracted work as a ready-made video based on a live installation.

Plus, the video streams which are played/manipulated live come from two sides, being either electronic generated -Visual waves- either from moving images history.

Artistic content:

The movies used relates to Film Theory field with directors; Godard, Fassbinder, Makavejev or Debord. Their radical works on film, both on theory and practically, brings material with high contents for live performance. They are rich in technically correct camera angles and moves, plus in tense and dense scenes with characters.

The movies are then stripped down to very short sequences making difficult to be recognized. They are recorded to VHS tapes and organized chronologically in themes. Few video sequences work are based on loops and repetitions, others sequences follow a scene over a longer period of time.

Alternating between pre-recorded materials, live light controls and improvisation creates a visual environment of its own. No breaks and continuous video references appear to be proper vehicle to work on other visual approaches than dominant spectatorship culture, to renew interest to moving images acclaimed in their time and now pushed to archives away from reach.

Live lights control brings focus to stage.

My plan is to continue video recording my live performances, then to extract more ready-made videos from the different places the performance took place. These videos will be screened in a conventional gallery space. These non-narrative moving images possess a materialist content based on improvisation and voluntary plagiarism. “Live installation” is distributed by AV-Arkki as single channel video of performances and live video performance.

The work plan is supported by AVEK.

Documentation:

*Watch video at www.rousseau.fi in video section, and [av-arrki](http://av-arrki.com) website.

My equipment consists of my video mixer, two professional VCRs with their serial port controls, the three lights and self design “Visual waves” hardware, MIDI control box; power lights control boxes and piezo microphones. I never used computer in any live performance of mine since I am active in this field, 2003.

My latest effort in electronic work is the design of the MIDI control box. Based on Arduino MEGA processor, the board has my own hardware; Arduino provides easy access to microprocessor power. My own design allows control over two types of communication. The first type is serial communication for VCRs and MIDI

information. I implemented the following VCRs control functions: - PLAY
- PAUSE
- REWIND
- FORWARD
- REVERSE PLAYBACK

MIDI is a serial communication, my box provide IN and OUT functions. It reads Note ON and Note OFF and triggers the second type of communication.

The second type of communication is designed to control the power driver for the lights. It is digital lines. I implemented, so far, four digital outputs. Both hardware and software have been developed in my studio for long days of hard work. This work is still a work in progress, a process to create a live video installation for audio live.

I used the two VCRs in the same manner I was using S8mm projectors during 2003/2004 years, ref AVANTO festival 2003. One VCR tape contains long video parts and the other one contains only short video loops.

“Live installation” performance:

- 2010 FLOW festival, experimental scene, Helsinki.
- 2011 Electronic club at Kuudes Linja, Helsinki.
- 2011 AAVE festival, Malmitalo, Helsinki.
Watch video at www.rousseau.fi in video section.
- 2011 Pavlov performance stage, Turku.

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