

Preface

Inre röster/Inner voices is a multi-part exhibition by and with Leif Elggren and Per Svensson showing at Kristianstad's municipal art gallery from 9th April to 6th June 2011. The exhibition is much else besides and it also involves, in various capacities, Michael Esposito and Freddie Wadling.

This is a formal announcement that the Kristianstad municipal art gallery is now definitely open to the inner voices. The following wordlist may be useful in this context..

BRIEF SUBJECTIVE WORDLIST FOR RECEIVING INNER VOICES

Alchemy. "Doctrine of the transmutability of matter built on philosophical speculation, magic and mysticism in Greek, Indian and Chinese culture". It involves the search for the Ur-substance, the "philosopher's stone". Compare with Aristotle's theory that all substances are, in turn, built up from differing amounts of the four elements. So what does the fifth element consist of? See, *inter alia*, Per Svensson's "The New Alchemy" which combines concrete sounds mixed with electronic ones. "A sort of random collection of sounds arises for the musicians to take hold of and, like a sculptor, mould them into a dramatic form... Alchemy is as much concerned with a transmutation of the investigator

who is changed and who leaves an old insight behind in order to reach the next stage of his journey." (Thomas Millroth in the catalogue to Per Svensson's exhibition at the Ystad art museum in 2010). Consider, also, Joseph Beuys, Emanuel Swedenborg and Marcel Duchamp.

Letters creep about like ants in April according to the poet Werner Aspenström.

Daimon. Socrates often conversed with his inner voice, his daimon, when he had doubts about his own actions. In the Greek tradition the daimon was a divine force. In later writing the daimon - or demon - becomes an evil spirit.

Emanuel Swedenborg kept a **Dream Diary** from 1743 onwards. In it he noted down the dreams he experienced in states of sleep, semi-consciousness and while awake. The diary is a truly unique *apologia*, a travel journal which increasingly occupies itself with the profundities of depth psychology and religion.

"**You** are a sonic laboratory" is one of Per Svensson's so-called "orange statements". Sound works by both Leif Elggren and Per Svensson have a natural coupling to the body and to various bodily sounds. Compare concepts like "I", "We" and, not least, "They".

Electromagnetic waves, including radio and light. Light is a wave movement. Sound is made up of mechanical waves in which an

oscillating pressure is transmitted through a "material", a liquid or a gas consisting of frequencies within the human hearing range.

Frequency is, for example, an expression for the specific number of cycles of vibrations produced by a "body" in the form of a string or a tuning fork, for example. The larger the number of vibrations per second, the higher is the note. In 2009 Leif Elggren published a large, fascinating book entitled "Physiological Frequencies" containing suggestive, repetitive drawings which he had made lying on his back with the paper above him. Thus he produced a sort of visual waves which consistently reproduce a human person. One can compare this with his project entitled "Under the Beds". "It all started under M's bed when I rolled in among the dust and made some little drawings on the underside of her bed. Using a ballpoint pen I drew on the wooden frame that keeps the steel springs of the mattress in place. I also wrote a greeting to M which she naturally knew nothing about. This was an activity that must never be documented or described. Not until now, while writing this at this specific moment, can I disclose that almost everywhere, in the various rooms that I have been in, I have rolled in under a bed and done a drawing or written something..."

The **Sons of God**. Wikipedia notes: "In 1988 Leif Elggren and Kent Tankred formed the duo known as the Sons of God. The duo excelled in creating extended, mystical

performances comprising physical action or inaction together with sounds that were either pre-recorded or created live. Frequent themes were violence, love, food, everyday events and royalty". In 2006 the Sons of God created a sound installation at the Färgfabriken art gallery in Stockholm. The aim was to establish contact with Emanuel Swedenborg.

[Intergalactic spaces. The space between stars is known as interstellar space and, on the same analogy, the spaces between galaxies are called intergalactic spaces.]

Medium (1) Middle quality between active and passive. (2) Means by which something is communicated. (3) Person claiming to be able to communicate with the world of spirits or with occult phenomena in spiritualism. "Sound/music is its own medium" (Leif Elggren on Per Svensson).

Noise can cover everything from non-sound to a sort of supersonic cacophony.

Voice. The written word is mute and needs to find a voice that can give it an acoustic form according to author Jesper Svenbro. But he also claims that the voice is to be found "behind the fence of the written word". The voice is present inside the text. When the reader reads aloud the voice is re-awakened by "breathing in one's spirit into the lifeless body of the poem".

Randomness can be used to describe an unpredictability that normally depends on

one or more unknown causes. Note also the phenomenon of the "random generator" and expressions like "it is no accident", or "randomly recorded sounds". "Sonic randomness received" - what might that mean? Per Svensson: "Life found in space - we found ourselves". No return will be the same.

Emanuel Swedenborg was born in Stockholm in 1688 and died in London in 1772. He is sometimes referred to as the Spiritual Columbus. Among his works are the Dream Diary, Regnum animale and De cultu et amore Dei. He is a spokesman and a link between this world and the other side. Swedenborg studied the gap in between.

Elggren/Svensson research "a different side". In 2007 Michael Esposito and Leif Elggren made recordings in Emanuel Swedenborg's little summer pavilion which is now located in the Skansen open-air museum in Stockholm.

Transatlantic 1999 Sound Art Project. Sound recordings and photography: Stockholm Arlanda - London Heathrow - Los Angeles "registering the sound of a transatlantic journey, both the inner and the outer journey. Released on 7-inch vinyl by Firework Edition Records in 2000.

Transmission. In 1959, Friedrich Jürgensen (1903-1987) developed a technique which enabled him to record voices from "the other side". He described this in a book entitled "Voice Transmissions with the Deceased".

In 2007 Per Svensson produced Intergalactic Transmission and the Ale Stenar Sound Project. He erected a tent among the rocks and set up a radio transmitter. For two hours he broadcast the following message at all frequencies: "We are the human beings... We are the aliens... We are the angels". He simultaneously recorded all the incoming signals..

Vitriol, an inspirational alchemical formula, being an anagram of *Visita Interiora Terrae Rectificando Invenies Occultum Lapidem* (Visit the Interior Parts of the Earth; by Rectification Thou Shalt Find the Hidden Stone).

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