

Sound-check





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sound installation

sound system, mixer, laptop computer

(drumset, 2 drummers, sound engineer, recording studio)

22', loop

2005

Gemine Muse, Teatro Litta, Milan, November 2005

In the foyer of the baroque Teatro Litta, two speakers diffuse the sound-check of a drumset. As during the staging of a live concert, you listen to sounds and voices coming from the musician and the sound engineer, while they are trying to build and refine the peculiar sound of the rock drums. The musician accords and configures the drums and the cymbals; at the same time, the engineer operates the electronic devices from the control room.

"Gimme the bass drum!" shouts the technician: the drummer beats the bass drum over and over while the engineer adjusts the sound. And then: *"Go on with the snare!"*, until the entire drum set's sound will be completed. Due to both archetypal rhythmic patterns and acoustic characters, the process shapes the instrument into a distinctive heavy-metal sound.

At the end of the session the drummer gives up the instruments to a second musician. Using the same method — from the bass drum to the whole setup's sound — the sounds and the rhythmic movements of a classical reggae drums are reconstructed.

When the second sound-check has been completed, the entire sequence starts again.