

Sonia Paço-Rocchia
Artist's Statement

The hearth of my art is life and sound is the heart.

Well, it is about communicating. Ideas, beauty, curious stuff, values, political views, scientific discoveries, emotions, stories... There is something about sound, music that does seem to go further, deeper than images or words. That is why sound is at the centre of what I do.



Instruments, yes, I love them, and working with players is really important to me. I like to write for a player much more than for an instrument. Sometimes instruments that already exist are not what is needed, so, I either transform/extend their sounds with technics or live electronics or build new ones. It is about sound, but timbre is probably the leader.



Sometimes something more instinctive, grounded, is needed and improvisation seems to be the right link between people and what has to be said. I really like to improvise. I feel it is a direct connection between me and the curious person who is listening.



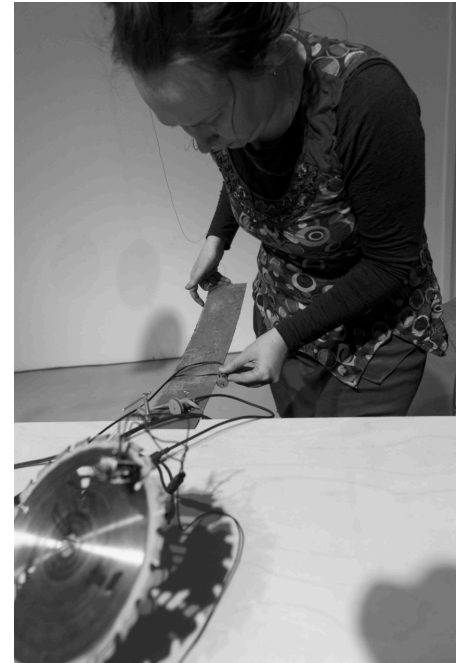
Sometimes something more structure is needed, composition seems to do that well. Players are fantastic, they grew your ideas and make sounding beauties. I think it is important to give them the space to do so. I often use relatively open scores. Finding the right balance between openness and direction is a challenge that I take really seriously.



Sometimes it needs to be closer to people, and installation seems to be the right thing for that. Since a couple of years now, my installations have automatons, they are kind of my temporal hands and ideas extensions: pretty cool. My goal is to have an installation that would play by itself in the same way I would if I were there. This is my present technical challenge.



I find important to have hand-on experience, or even to have hands in the full process. I make my own instruments, I actually learnt to weld to do so. I do my own interfaces, using microcontrollers and sensors, I do my own MAX patches. When I write a piece, I usually have the solo instruments around and have to learn at least to be able to basically play them. That lead to curious moment were I had to teach professional musicians some techniques while I can hardly play their instruments. A part of my job is sometime to enlarge instrumental techniques.



Improvisation, composition and installations are means to communicate sounds, but they often needs a bit of visual, theatre, movements, words to have an Ariane's Thread to guide to the door of a world of curiosities. Hope you enjoy it.

