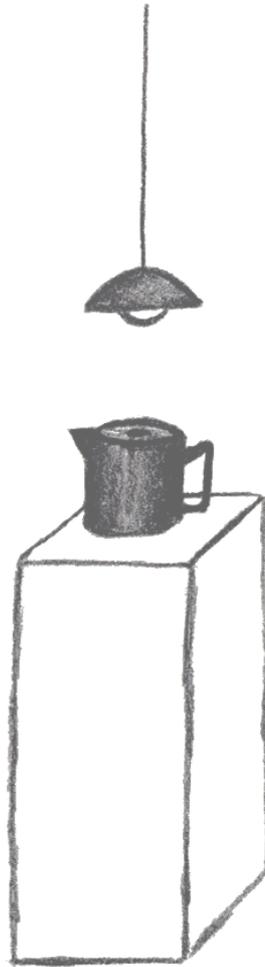


Prélude de bouilloires
pour 6 à 12 bouilloires



Par Sonia Paço-Rocchia
automne 2003

Première, 24th November 2003, at the Salle Serge-Garant, Université de Montréal

[Sonia Paço-Rocchia a le don de nous faire redécouvrir les objets en apparence banals qui nous entourent. Après CAM et une collaboration où elle jouait sur des verres, voici une œuvre charmante où la bouilloire avait la vedette.]

Ceco Hebdo

Prélude de bouilloires (*Kettles Prelude*)

for 6 to 12 whistling kettles

Cups

When the public arrives, each member is given an empty cup. (Maybe ask the audience to bring their own cups, and have some spare ones.) The cups must be real cups (ceramic or glass cups not cardboard or foam). The cups can be all different. Cups could be given to the public in a different way as long as they have the cups before the piece begins.

Room

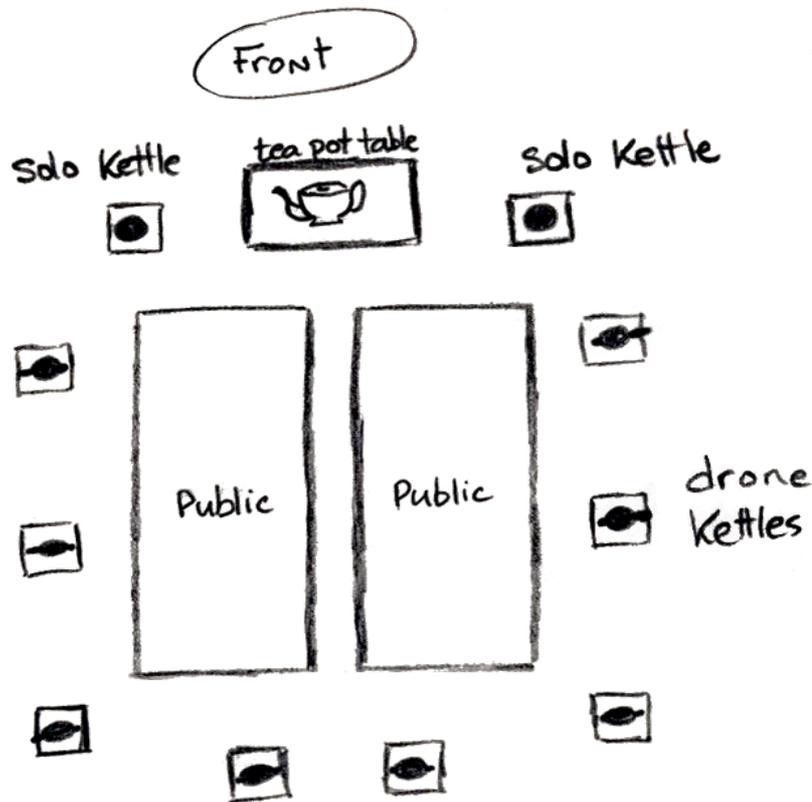
Ideally, the performance space is relatively dark, awaiting for the performance. Light, comfortable, relaxing essences or incense can be used. People can sit down.

Kettles

The kettles are all whistling kettles. They can be electric kettles or hob kettles. The hob can be electric or gas. Gas is better, the visual effect of the flame in the dark is nice and more reactive, and the water heats faster. You should use it particularly for the soloist kettles. But it might be difficult for health and safety reasons. Electric hobs will do.



The kettles are spread around the public not too close to them. They are on top of preferably tall stools or tables. Each of them has its own light source. This could be just the gas or the interior light of the kettle if it has one. If not, a little bed-side light or something else. If there is a stage, don't use it, if possible.



Preparations

If the public is large, have a helper and a second teapot. Use the first teapot after the first solo, so that the helper can begin to serve tea after the second solo.

If it is appropriate, the second piece in the concert may commence whilst the tea is still being served to the audience

You will need a big teapot, or few. Put it in on a table on the front. Put tea leaves in it. If the piece is performed in Britain, it may be essential to have milk in the tea, in which case it may be necessary to give a jug of milk to be passed around the audience. Or to choose especially a tea that does need milk. Maybe some ginger tea.

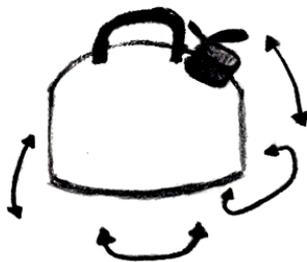
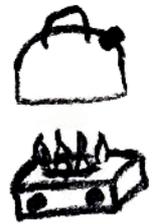
You will need to test and prepare the kettles. Put quieter kettles at the back. Put less water in them, so they will boil first, or preheat their contents a little bit before the performance.

Solo kettles

The two solo kettles are on the front, left and right.

It is usually hard to control the sounds of electric whistling kettles. They could be used as drones.

Some hob whistling kettles have a very responsive sound. Camping type kettles, for example. Choose your instruments. You will need two solo whistling kettles.



A bit before the water is actually boiling, the sound produced is a windy sort of sound. It is possible to stop and start this sound by positioning the kettle away from or closer to the heat. The same applies when the water is boiling and the kettle is whistling. You can take the kettle away from the heat at a speed between fairly quickly and extremely slowly. The timbres produced by changing the positions are sometimes like a sad sigh or a sigh of relief, or a cry. It is possible to create other sorts of transitions, textures and sounds by slightly and slowly swirling or tilting the kettle. It is also possible to open the top slowly or quickly, irregularly. Listen for minuscule changes of timbre.

10 to 15 sec	5 to 10 sec	60 to 300 sec	few minutes
The light goes dark wait for total si- lence	switch on a light and its kettle (positioned to the right (middle) of the audi- ence)	slowly do this for each kettle	one by one they begin to whistle

	60 to 400 sec	10 to 25 sec	120 to 400 sec
	first kettle solo (preferably front right kettle)	empty the content of this solo kettle into the teapot (front of the room)	go to another kettle, empty its contents into the teapot. do this for a few kettles (3 or 4) probably choosing ket- tles which are hiding more interesting sounds from other kettles or which are too quiet

	60 to 400 sec	10 to 25 sec	240 to 600 sec
	second kettle solo	empty this kettle into the teapot	slowly, go to another kettle, and empty its contents into the teapot; do this for each kettle. Do it very slowly. Carefully choose which kettle you are removing from the sound texture. Leave a very nice weak sound for last kettle.

	minutes
	offer tea to each person in the public