

INFECTING THE CITY 2013

Concert To: -a project conceived and curated by the composer Pierre-Henri Wicomb. This unlikely concert engages 12 South African composers and sound artists to compose an electronic piece of not more than ten minutes for a stereo speaker set-up to be 'performed' in an unconventional space. In this case, the Cape Town train station was selected as one of three audio and performance sites for the project. All the pieces will be created beforehand, and can therefore be played over the speaker system of the station in a continuous stream taking on the role of a kind of incidental music. This 'contaminated' auditorium fits the theme of the project which deals with on the one hand, low quality storing and reproduction and on the other, different audio- and audience spaces. The former had its origin in the digital trend of storing information in ever smaller files or formats for practical purposes, while in the process discarding quality (for example storing music in MP3 format). This phenomenon has the effect that two distinct versions of information are created: the original version and its reproduction. For this project, Michael Blake, Brydon Bolton, Jan-Hendrik Harley, Theo Herbst, Neo Muyanga, Hannelore Olivier, John Pringle, Ulrich SuBe, Cobi van Tonder, Dimitri Voudouris, Sony Warrick and Pierre-Henri Wicomb were asked to interpret this notion in an electronic piece.

The performing space is the other important aspect of the project. The idea was to target venues which already have a basic sound set-up installed (to ameliorate logistical and financial constraints) and to play the pieces continuously over the sound system. Utilising the sound system of the train station, for example, creates a scenario in which the commuter will have the option of having a non-disruptive or a more involved experience by perceiving the musical material either on-the-go or taking time with the performances.

Lastly, electronic music belongs to a very small elite academic group. This project aims to change this perception by taking this genre to the public, thereby challenging psychological and artistic prejudice.