

Bruce Odland, sonic thinker, composer, sound artist

Bruce Odland is an artist who thinks with his ears. A pioneer in sound installations, his first public sound installation, SUN SONG, broadcast a four channel cloud of reverberant sound over an outdoor festival in Denver from the Clock tower of East High in 1977. Since then he has discovered resonance and beauty in both the fractal music of nature and transforming vast industrial soundscapes of the cities into harmonic music. In 1987 he founded O+A with Austrian fellow sonic pioneer Sam Auinger. Together they have developed a HEARING PERSPECTIVE of the culture we live in and have responded with installations that change the perception of public space. GARDEN OF TIME DREAMING, 1990, created a sonic cosmology at the Castle of Linz, BLUE MOON, 2004, re-tuned the post 9-11 sound-space of the World Financial Center plaza by turning noise into harmony mixed by the tides and moon, REQUIEM FOR FOSSIL FUELS, 2007-2010 brought together 4 virtuoso voices, the Latin requiem mass, and an 8 channel orchestra of tuned city resonances, SONIC VISTA, 2010, a permanent piece, united the north and south Greenbelts of Frankfurt Germany at a new focal point of listening, TONIC 2005, for West Hollywood, and HARMONIC BRIDGE, 1998 for MASSMoCA, are permanent pieces reclaiming underutilized city spaces with harmonic resonances. Their latest collaboration is a permanent installation, HEARING VIEW, 2013, containing library of healing sounds for the Rheinau Psychiatric Clinic, the oldest psychiatric institution in Switzerland.

Over the years, Odland has lent his ears to many collaborative projects in film, dance, museum installation and theatre with artists such as Laurie Anderson, The Wooster Group, Peter Sellars, JoAnne Akalaitis, Wallace Shawn, Andre Gregory, Peter Erskine, Tony Oursler, Dan Graham, Robert Woodruff, Bill Morrison, Stacey Steers, Ron Miles and many others. Recently he co-directed a major outdoor sound installation with Laurie Anderson for Novartis in Basel, Switzerland. He has received artist grants and awards from NYSCA, Foundation for Performing Arts, Bermont Foundation, the DAAD Fellowship, Rensaleer Polytechnic Institute residency, Golden Muse, Helen Hayes, Golden Reel, and Focus awards, and a Prix Ars Electronica. Currently he is founding the TANK, a center for sonic arts and experimentation in a giant abandoned water tank in the high desert of Western Colorado.