

Laura Mello studied Media Studies and Musical Composition in Brazil and Electroacoustic Music with Dieter Kaufmann in Vienna, where she won the Theodor-Körner Prize Austria in 2005. In her work she discusses topics like communication through language and relationships within “actors” in performances involving more than one medium. The result lies somewhere inbetween music theater and performance art. Since 2006 lives in Berlin where she works as a composer, performer, curator and dj. Since 2008 she has been working on her PhD at the TU Berlin about *Intermedia Composing with help of opensource developing platform*. In 2008 in Berlin she created the artists collective “KosmetiKRadio” and since then she develops a language of artistic expression where sound, performance and space influence each other equally. With MetaphernWerkstatt she has been organizing workshops in the fields of theater, sound art and intermedia composing, in collaboration with e.g. Studiobühne Ritterstrasse, Staalplaat Working Space, Klangnetz e.V. Took part in collective creations with Octavio Camargo (“Museu do Poste”), Rachel Brooker (“Invitation”), Silke Wiegand (“Station Artikulation”), Julia Jadcowski and Marcel Schwald (“Josephine Joseph”) She was an artist-in-residence at PACT-Zollverein in Essen (2008) and Lt-Identity/Vilnius European Capital of Culture (2009). Concerts in Brazil, Europe and USA (amongst others Wiener Musikfestwochen, IGNM Musikfest Wien, Klangzeitort Berlin, Voices on the Edge Festival California) as well as radio showings worldwide.



www.lauramello.org

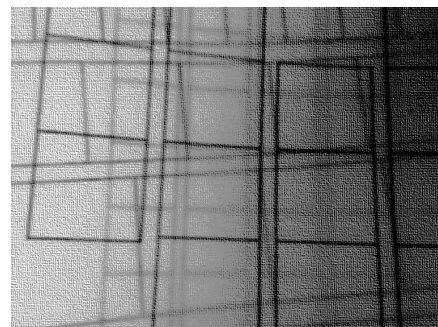
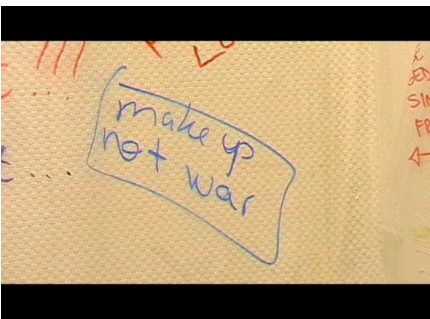
Work selection (2007-2009)

2007

Template - Installation

An itinerant installation uses WCs as platforms for exchanges amongst cultures. The walls are empty to be used for written thoughts of anyone using the facility. A television showing a video from the last installations is placed on the space: what was written on the wall is the source for the sound. The act of writing was recorded and the result was processed. In the first installation the video

was made of transparent templates for Chinese characters, which will allude to the last place of installation, China. For the next installation, the video will report the previous installation, using the messages as sound sources, and so one. Going into the WC installation, people from different countries and cultures can experience intimate thoughts about each other. After the installation reaches the final station in China, a video will display all of the videos at the same time on a big screen.



2008

Living Radio – Music Theater

Based on the use of „Audio Guide“ - normally used in museums – the project adapts it as a flexible platform for a live performance. The end result is an unconventional „audio guide“ in the form of live *Hörspiel*: a mixture of reality and imagination, a synesthetic experience where the visual is „filtered“ through the aural. On the other hand, another focus is added to the already existent exhibition. i.e., when what is being described (through speakers or radios) becomes visible, they become a living self-reflexive part of the museum.

Two observers (a man and a woman) walk around through the same space where the public is staying and where at the same time other things are taking place (exhibitions, theater, even the daily landscape, outdoors, people). They see the space, the people and their relationship. They are the „observers“ of the moment, watching the people in the space, describing either what they’re seeing, either what happened before in the space, either some imaginary situation that could (or could not!) take place on the space. They describe what they are seeing, they say what they feel about it, they also create new situations (fantasies) based on the reality. Each one of them speaks into wireless headset microfons.

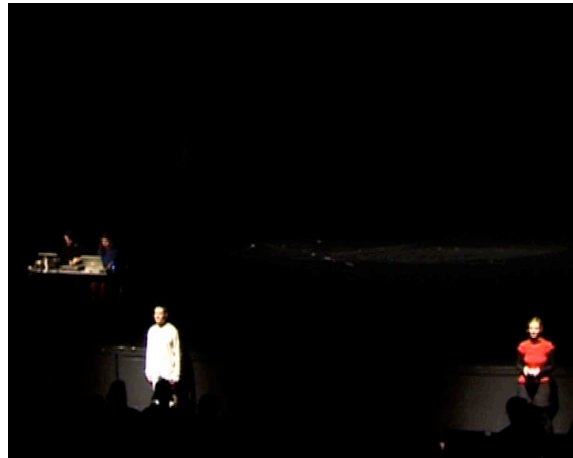
Their voices go through an audio editing equipment, where the composer/DJ manipulates their voices and adds pre-recorded sound to it.

The sound art created is transmitted either through the normal PA, either through a radiotransmitter, and come to the recipients either on loudspeakers, wireless headphones or small radios.

Concept, software programming, live electronics: Laura Mello, Urban Schlemmer, Kassian Troyer

Actors: Anne Kohl, Oliver Kube

Premiered at Uni.T Theater, Berlin





Konzerthaus in Vienna 14.10.08

Foto: Tina Labuzinski

2008

Composing for many media including me - Performance

Solo multimedia performance (laptop music, video, theatre and dance) about interferences amongst video, audio and performance.

Constructing multimedia: different times collide. Isn't it actually like this in life? So why travelling, why moving from one point to another? (Ex) Changing points of view. To be seen differently? (Ex) Changing tempi and rhythms. Everything leads to one point, that leads to many others. At the same time. Over and over. To learn from a journey is to be able to teach oneself within it.

Languages: german, italian. Premiered as work in progress with the title: „Reisestücker!“ at Brut in



multiple interactions happen, of whatever nature – musical, political or social. The production »Dirigent« is the result of a research into some of these possible relationships on the stage, without an orchestra but with several „Conductors“.

Percussion: Matthias Engler
 Flute: Kristjana Helgadóttir
 Performance: Laura Mello
 EyesWeb: György Pongracz
 Klangregie: Daniel Plewe
 Costume Design: Josephine Seeger

Fotos: Wiese/Klapper

2009:

Dirigent – Music Theater

The concept of interaction / reciprocity of actors, according to Wikipedia, is »the support that produces bounded products and conversations (Cybernetics)«.

In this piece, the „Conductor“ is used as a Metaphor for such complex relationships. In the musical world, the audience perceives him as the central figure of a process (the orchestral concert), where indeed



Collaborations:



2008

Invitation: Dance Installation / Anima Dance Theater

Dir: Rachel Brooker - Music: Laura Mello - Video: Kosei Takasaki - Dancers: Laura Weiss | James Neirinck | Laura Mello | Nahid Matin Pour | Claudia Ginsberg | Christine Mauch | Pen Haßmann | Invitation is an interactive dance work which opens with the words: "This is an invitation to touch anywhere on exposed skin. You are free to

touch, or not to touch. Please enter the space". Dancers arrange and rearrange themselves, offering and withdrawing parts of the body as they compose their invitations to the audience. In the words of reviewer Adam Bliss, "As I moved about the



installation, I was struck by the tenderness and intense concentration shared by dancers and touchers alike".



2008-2009

Josephine_Joseph – Dance Installation/ with Julia Jankowski, Marcel Schwald, Roswitha Emrich, Rico Schalück

Josephine Joseph (*1913), inspiration figure for the project, was born as a child of Polish parents in Austria. After the emigration to America and autodidactic dance education, the first engagements as a Sideshow-Performer in California. In

1932. Worldwide fame by the Hollywood film FREAKS of death Browning.

The costume which he uses in shows separates him vertically in two halves: a Herkules side and an blue angel's side. With the help of analogous technology and a live choreography, an optical deception should be generated. Josephine and Joseph are fused to one single body. The naive visual



desegregation of female and male attributes wakes up the curiosity of the visitors as well as confounds it. In being and presence, the figure questions an unequivocal gender allocation. Josephine Joseph is mentioned on Wikipedia under the category 'possibly living people'.



Fotos: J.J.P. Wittulsky