



Instrument Monument





presents

Instrument | Monument

artistic direction
Michel Risse

An open-air spectacular sound project

«Any form, any material is endowed with sound, however infinitesimal or inaudible. So that every day, without knowing it, we come across secret, yet unheard-of musical instruments, waiting only for musicians and appropriate technical means to be revealed.»

M.Risse

Décor Sonore
Villa Mais d'Ici - 77 rue des Cités
93300 Aubervilliers - France
ph: +33 (0)1 42 52 36 08
info@decorsonore.org
www.decorsonore.org

Instrument | Monument

Intended to develop the potentialities of all kinds of places all over the world, over a period of several years, our Instrument | Monument Programme transforms monuments and other artistic and architectural works into as many giant musical instruments and scenographic objects.

A spectacular form of open-air project on sound, each Instrument | Monument performance is a totally new creation, inherent to each context, inspired specifically by the site's own resonance, scenographic possibilities, and even memory.

The process begins with the site being — literally speaking — «auscultated» by our musicians and technicians, in search of raw material enabling both the writing of the musical score, and a poetic staging of the place's identity: for to be heard, any form — and especially new forms — also need to be seen. The dramatic power of each instrumental movement, the bodies, the scenography, the space, the architecture, everything contributes to turn what happens in the realm of sounds into a show. Conversely, music, here, is not a mere illustration or accompaniment, as the purpose of each picture, displacement or move is to produce sounds.

Thus, each creation owes its achievement to the discoveries gradually released by the site, and the composition of each new Instrument | Monument never ceases until it is ready for its first performance. Here is not merely a work in progress, but the writing of a living score in progress; and the audience finally takes part in an event which has never existed before, and can never exist anywhere else.



photo: Lorenzo Passoni

Suitable sites



photo:Vincent Muteau

Nearly any kind of building, monument, civil engineering edifice, street furniture or equipment, indoors or outdoors can change into a "musical instrument".

The sound qualities of the instrument depend on the building materials. The sound systems will vary in size and power, according to the site dimensions and the audience expectations (from a few hundred to thousands).

The most resonant building materials are of course metal and glass, essentially constructions of the XIXth and XXth centuries. Nevertheless, materials such as wood or plastic that would seem to be less resonant, can also have remarkable sound properties, and stone or concrete - when shaped in tiles, for example - can create wonderful tones.

To imagine what kind of sound we could get from walls of stone, we have created the « Scriptophone ». The principle is to rub a sound stick or stylus on the different surfaces, making every variant of the surface audible (grain, dents, joints) through a dynamic movement which is similar to the gesture of a calligrapher or a « tagger ». It is a form of writing, and just as dance can be considered as writing in space, here the writing is made legible it by sounds in a musical development.

The ground can also be amplified and translate steps, vibrations, tap dancing, rubbing and sliding, as well as rolling (skateboards, carts, scooters...) into music.

The performance space is therefore defined by the natural sound and stage properties of the site, with a minimum use of external technical or theatrical elements.

2015

Camera Sonora - Saint-Hilaire Church
« Nuits Romanes » festival (Melle, France)
With KompleX Kapharnaüm

2012

Le Navire Théâtre - Cornouaille Theater
« Sonik » festival (Quimper, France)

2011

AudioVolvo - Volmax Garage
Stokke (Norway)

Campus Sonoris - Jussieu Campus
Pierre & Marie Curie University(Paris)

Primo Piano - Scuola della Misericordia
Alice Evènements Production (Venice, Italy)

2010

WaveFronts - Mercure Hotel
International street art festival of Bat-Yam (Israel)

Anstimmen - Trieben main square
« REGIONALE10 » festival (Trieben, Austria)

2008

IntonaRivoli - Rivoli Castle
« Teatro a Corte » festival (Rivoli, Italy)

Spectropera - Opera House of Cairo
(Cairo, Egypt)

2007

Château Fortissimo - Fortress of Blandy-les-Tours
« Mémoires Vives » festival (Blandy-les-Tours, France)

Opéra de Fer - Opera house and "Kafka's Sword"
statue
La Strada Festival (Graz, Austria)

Pont sur l'Onde - Bridge of Nogent-sur-Marne
Festival de l'Oh! (Nogent sur Marne, France)

Retour aux sources - Thermal spring resort
« Les Pronomades » festival (Encausse, France)

2006

Bruits roses - Main square of Angers
« Les Accroche-Cœurs » festival (Angers, France)

2005

Ondines et Sirènes - St Georges swimming pool
« Les Tombées de la nuit » festival (Rennes, France)

Une petite musique de cour
Hôtel de Beauvais (administrative court of Paris)
« Les rythmes du Marais » festival (Paris, France)

Quatre euros d'opéra - Opéra Comique
(Paris, France)

2004

Dehors/Dedans - Scène Nationale Le Manège
and covered Circus of Reims (Reims, France)

Par-dessus le marché - Place de la Condamine
« Printemps des Arts » festival (Monaco)

In Cage - La Roquette Square
« Itinérance Rue » festival (Paris, France)

Terra Incognita

"Holland" tugboat and wharf of Terschelling
Oerol Festival (Terschelling, Netherlands)



photo:Vincent Muteau

Artistic & technical team

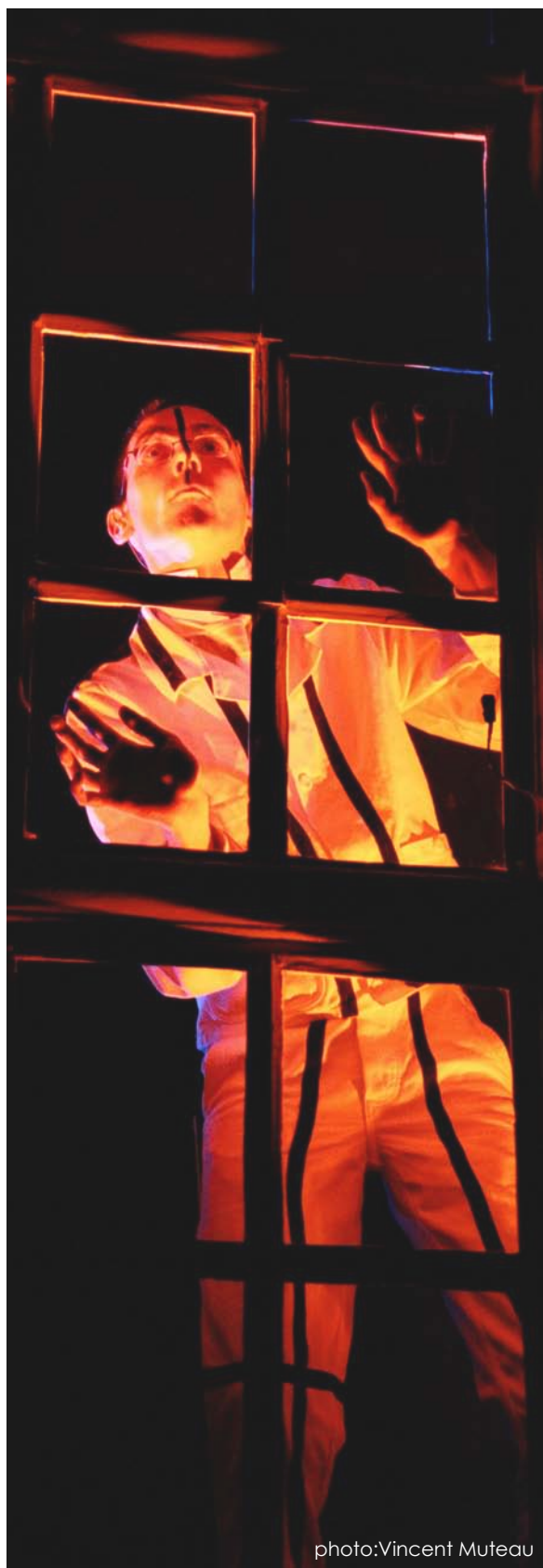


photo:Vincent Muteau

Artistic direction
Michel Risse

Staging assistant
Didier Couchi

with
Jérôme Bossard
Julien Bouchet
Damien Boutonnet
Didier Couchi
Sophie Poupin
Cécile Maillard
Sabine Montlahuc
Thibo Trilles
Fabio Turini
Gaëlle Salomon

Technical direction
Renaud Biri

Location management
Emeric Renard

Sound
Olivier Moyne

Sound assistant
Arnaud Jardin

Light
Jean Grison
Nicolas Tauveron

Aerial fixation manager
Fred Sintomer

Communication, Diffusion
Amandine Brignoli

Administration
Nolwenn Semana

Photo and vidéo
Vincent Muteau

Press extracts

French composer-director finds music in stone

in Reuters, by Jonathan Wright

French composer-director Michel Risse and his Decor Sonore troupe turned the massive concrete structure of the Cairo Opera House into a giant musical instrument in a performance this week. Musicians and technicians thumped the walls, rubbed the ramparts with brushes, probed the fishponds with rods wired with sensors, and even explored the acoustic potential of the metal fire escape. (...)

Risse said he approaches each structure as though asking it questions and hearing how it responds. He uses a stethoscope as he rubs or taps it or hits it with a drumstick, looking for the places to put sensitive microphones for the best effect. «It's like asking something of the object. it is the same for the people...If you want a good answer you have to ask properly the good question», he said.

At the Cairo Opera House, he found inspiration in the gallery of columns around one of the courtyards. «these pillars are like a rhythm, very regular, and it looks like a huge marimba bar. So it speaks to me and appeals to me», he said.

He also took advantage of the background noises inherent to the building. «There are so many air conditioners everywhere and each one of them gives a pitch, a rumble, so you have to tune into this soundscape. You cannot go against it», he said. He said he was not interested in recording the performances for sale. «I like this project because it is so much away from consuming things. It's just here at this moment and it cannot be done anywhere else and we won't do it again, never.»



photo:Vincent Muteau



Décor Sonore

Décor Sonore is a unique composition and production tool, aimed at sound creation for open spaces and site specific arts. Internationally regarded as one of the most innovating French companies, Décor Sonore offers the public uncommon entertainments combining drama, pyrotechnics, poetry, technology, humour, and, of course, musical creation.

Besides its own creation, the company developed since 2000 «la Fabrique sonore» (« The sonic Factory »), which supports innovative works by other artists and companies, especially in the fields of the street arts and new stages. Its activities include researches in specific sound technology and media, education in sound and music staging, and acoustic ecology.

Michel Risse

Composer, multi-instrumentalist, electro-acoustician and artistic director of Décor Sonore company, Michel Risse considers the city like a open space for inventing new musical composition.

His main source of inspiration is our everyday surrounding, with its sounds, vibrancies and harmonies coming from natural or industrial elements.

His unique creations offers an « unheard » perception of our sound environment and renew our relation to music.

Partners and supports

The work Instrument/Monument is commissioned by the French State.

Partners

Le Manège, Scène nationale de Reims
l'Atelier 231 de Sotteville-lès-Rouen
Lieux Publics, Centre national de
création des arts de la rue
Le Fourneau, Scène conventionnée
Arts de la rue
Espace Périphérique, Paris-Villette
Le Parapluie d'Aurillac

Supports

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and communication
le DICREAM
la SACEM
la SPEDIDAM
The French Institute

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Artrafic & la Mairie de Paris

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photo:Vincent Muteau

Contacts

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Villa Mais d'Ici - 77 rue des Cités
93300 Aubervilliers - France
Ph : +33 (0)1 41 61 99 95
info@decorsonore.org
www.decorsonore.org

Artistic Direction
Michel Risse
+33 (0)6 14 32 91 18
michel.risse@decorsonore.org

Technical direction
Renaud Biri
+33 (0)6 85 83 06 62
technique@decorsonore.org

Administration & Production
Macha Belguermi
+33 (0)1 41 61 99 95
administration@decorsonore.org

Communication & diffusion
Anne Rouhouse
+33 (0)1 41 61 99 95
communication@decorsonore.org

video extracts on:
vimeo.com/channels/decorsonore

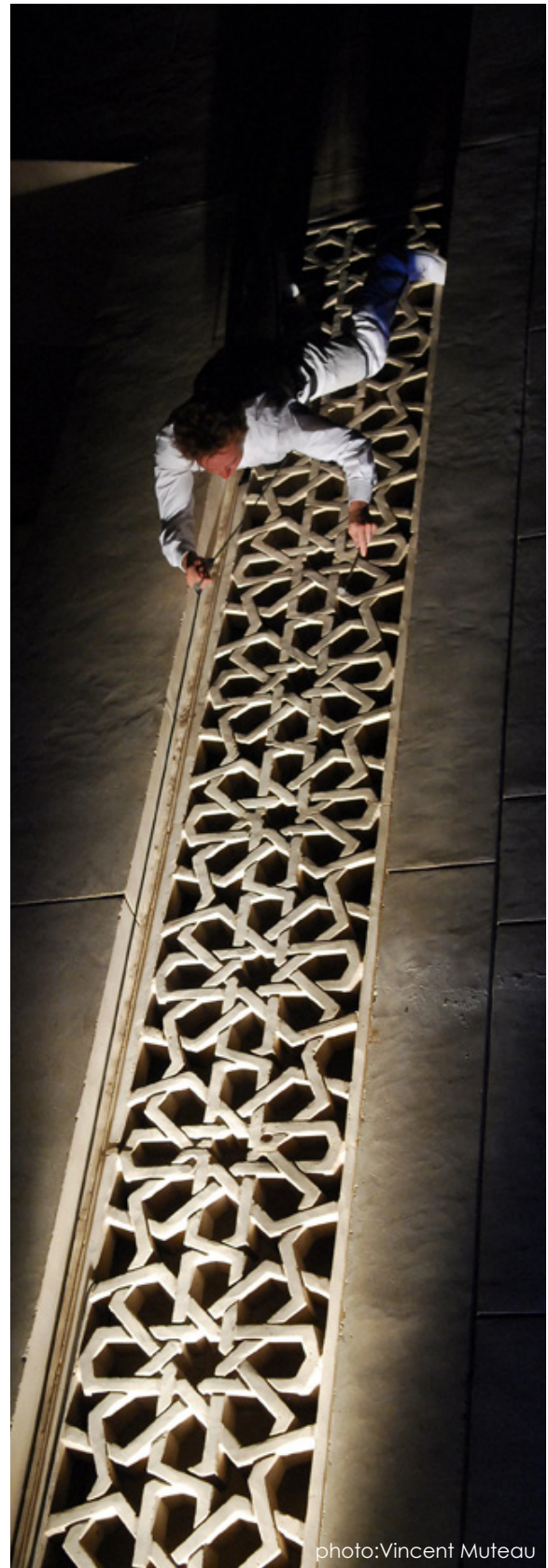


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