



where you are (2007)
cell phone audio
installation

where you are consists of multiple one minute audio art compositions that audience members access from their cell phones. These short compositions are based on recordings of environmental sound recorded on many different trips to Kolkata, India. Audience members can listen to the soundtrack of Kolkata in one ear and the soundtrack of the city in the other, the ear open to the street. Through the mindful listening required in the participation of the audience, *where you are* opens audience members to the beauty of the sound all around them, leading them to experience the outside and inside sound worlds as complementary audio art works.

where you are is a 2nd soundtrack to the (outside) exhibition space, existing at every point in time and one which audience members experience at will. The portal to interact with the piece is the cell phone, that most ubiquitous of devices. In this work, the act of dialing and listening to a message becomes a ritual instead of a reflex. It elevates what is usually a thoughtless act into a mindful one, a gateway to hearing the magic in the world. In one ear is the constructed magic of audio art, and in the other is the spontaneous magic that is the sound of everyday life. The mindfulness that the work requires creates a small experience of the way we can experience reality everyday if we are only open to doing so.

The soundtrack of the world is a lovely *mélange* of the prosaic (traffic, people walking and talking on the street) and the poetic (music, the surprise and happiness in people's conversations, unexpected sounds of nature). The sounds of Kolkata also have that same dichotomy. Within the mundane sounds of traffic and such we hear many surprising and magical things (if only because of our own unfamiliarity with the culture). *where you are* is a work that opens the listeners mind to this magic, and the residue of the piece is one in which we carry this perception with us, long past the exhibition period.

Technical considerations:

The compositions themselves will consist of phonographic sound recorded on soundwalks around the streets of Kolkata. Material is constructed and chosen in relation to the projected exhibition space so that each soundtrack will complement the other. A minimum of 10 days is required to assess the exhibition area to determine the audio content of the work, and to set up the phone interface.

For international exhibitions, setup of the toll free number may require assistance from gallery or exhibition staff. Standard toll free services exist in many areas and can be found on the internet.

Exhibitions:

Commissioned by and premiered at Nuit Blanche, Toronto, Canada (2007)