

MARK HOPE

Some thoughts.....

What do you mean by “sounding drawing”?

For me, this exhibition is an invitation to explore what “sounding drawing” might mean. If you are asked to respond to a drawing using sound, many possibilities spring to mind. Starting with the most literal:

- You might try to explain something about the drawing using spoken language (either a particular language(s) or a made-up language,
- you might try to vocalise the drawing in a different way (poetry, song, improvised vocalisation etc.),
- you might record the sound of pencil on paper during the creation of the drawing,
- you might use different instruments or digital effects to create a sonic environment which in some way represents your response to the drawing as a whole,
- you might treat the drawing as a musical score and translate it into sound in a similar way to a musician reading a conventional score (which generally involves specific conventions such as reading from left to right, notes written higher in the score are pitched higher etc.).

The possibilities are endless, the only limitation being the imagination of the participants in this dialogue. Of course, each exploration may or may not resonate with someone else. Indeed, in responding to specific drawings by creating soundscapes, I find my own “point of view” changing throughout the process. [If I have one constant impression, it is one of dissatisfaction – no soundscape can adequately capture the drawing but repeated effort does yield additional insights].

It’s somewhat like trying to “see” the territory which is represented by a map. The map itself is unchanging but the territory is never the same twice: just as a landscape represented by an Ordnance Survey map changes due to weather and the seasons as well as our mood when we take the walk, so any visual or aural experience changes every time we experience it. Each re-presentation alters our perspective so that when we next view the same drawing or view, we will see it slightly differently.

Unlike most art exhibitions, the artists involved here are not seeking to present us with a body of work which is complete in itself. They are simply providing a starting point (or many potential starting points) for exploration and dialogue. As with all art, your own ideas, responses and opinions are as valid as anyone else’s.