

Specials > JUAN MUÑOZ'S WORKS FOR RADIO

The *Specials* programs focus on projects by artists and curators who have some kind of connection to the Museum's programming and the MACBA Collection. Over the next few months, *Specials* will recover and broadcast the radio works created by Juan Muñoz, one of the artists whose work is represented in the MACBA Collection.

JUAN MUÑOZ'S WORKS FOR RADIO

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From 1992 to 2001, Juan Muñoz carried out a series of works using materials that we would not expect to find in the hands of a sculptor: the voice, music, sound. Muñoz conceived and made these works specifically for radio so that they would circulate through the airwaves at a particular moment of the day and reach listeners who had tuned in, either by choice or by chance. Radio Web MACBA is going back to these radio works with the aim of bringing them to a wider audience and having them recognised as an additional element of the artist's work along with the sculpture and writing he carried out simultaneously and without a break, and in order to go beyond the physical space that Juan Muñoz occupies within the MACBA Collection.

"Building for Music" (1993), "A Man in a Room Gambling" (1992), "Will it Be a Likeness?" (1996) and "A Registered Patent" (2001-2002) use sound, the voice and music as their basic raw materials. They all have something in common – an element that was of special interest to the artist: they had to be broadcast on public radio stations.

01. "A Registered Patent: A Drummer inside a Rotating Box" (2001-2002)

Between 2000 and 2001, Juan Muñoz began working on the idea for his last radio work, which was left unfinished due to his sudden death, and was completed by Alberto Iglesias. After the opening of "Double Bind", Muñoz returned to one of his old obsessions, which was also in a sense connected to the "Building for Music" script: architecture conceived to allow high-quality music listening, in the form of an echo-free room. At the same time, Muñoz went back to patents he had found during the days he'd spent reading at the New York Public Library. The texts of the patents talk about materials and construction techniques and forms that can prevent echo inside built spaces.

"'Building for Music' and 'A Registered Patent' both deal with music, they talk about music. You could almost say that in the first piece the remains of the building are the music. The music isn't just there to illustrate a story, it is also a subject and plays a testimonial role. The text for 'A Registered Patent' is a legal patent for a specific object – a box containing a small percussionist that could end up disappearing at a given moment. The score is the percussionist playing, and he plays very small instruments that also mirror the object's small size. At the time, I was working on a movie with John Malkovich. The three of us met up and John thought it would be great to do a piece together. The piece we were going to do was for radio, but it was to be performed live in London to coincide with the exhibition at the Tate Modern. It would have been one of the exhibition's closing events. But then Juan died, and John Malkovich and I wanted to do the piece anyway. I went to John's house in the south of France, in Provence, with recording equipment and the text. [...] Patents are formulated in a highly repetitive way, they are almost mannerist in their repetition. The repetition is required to delimit all the legal terminology. They have a highly overlapping structure. [...] I ended up making a radio piece because Juan had died, but it was originally meant to be a piece for theatre as well as radio. Given that Malkovich was there, it would have been a very special production". Alberto Iglesias.*

*Fragment from a conversation with Bartomeu Marí. January 2005.

02. Specifications

Text by Juan Muñoz
Music composed and produced by Alberto Iglesias

Voice:
John Malkovich

Music:
Percussion: Angel Crespo
Piano: Horacio Icasto
Double bass (courtesy of Warner Music): Ari Malikian
Violin: Mariana Torodova Roeva



[Juan Muñoz "The Nature of Visual Illusion", 1994]

Viola: Julia Malkova
Cello: John Stokes
Sound engineer: José Luis Crespo
Keyboard: Alberto Iglesias

Music recorded, mixed and mastered by José Luis Crespo, PKO (Boadilla del Monte, Madrid, Spain).

Electronic sound design: Javier Casado

Musical coproduction: José Luis Crespo and Clarissa Farrán

03. Works by Juan Muñoz in the MACBA Collection

"London Balcony" 1987 Escultura/3 dimensiones

http://www.macba.es/controller.php?p_action=show_page&pagina_id=29&inst_id=18318

"Popular Songs III" 1987 Instalación

http://www.macba.es/controller.php?p_action=show_page&pagina_id=29&inst_id=18317

"The Nature of Visual Illusion" 1994 Escultura/3 dimensiones

http://www.macba.es/controller.php?p_action=show_page&pagina_id=29&inst_id=22253

04. Acknowledgements

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05. Copyright note

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