



Research > MEMORABILIA. COLLECTING SOUNDS WITH... Kenneth Goldsmith

MEMORABILIA. COLLECTING SOUNDS WITH... seeks to break through to unearth and reveal private collections of music and sound *memorabilia*. It is a historiography of sound collecting that reveals the unseen and passionate work of the amateur collector while reconstructing multiple parallel histories such as the evolution of recording formats, archiving issues, the collecting market and the evolution of musical styles beyond the marketplace.

Each episode in the series is accompanied by an additional programme featuring an exclusive music selection by each of the collectors.

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Produced by Roc Jiménez de Cisneros.

Roc Jiménez de Cisneros is an artist. Since 1996 he has been the core member of the computer music project EVOL and his work has been published on internationally acclaimed record labels. His work can be understood as an aesthetic exploration of algorithmic composition and a deconstruction of rave culture under the light of various theories in recent metaphysics. He lives and works in Barcelona.
vivapunani.org

Publishers Weekly described the writings of Kenneth Goldsmith as 'some of the most exhaustive and beautiful collage work yet produced in poetry'. Goldsmith is the author of ten books of poetry and teaches at the Centre for Programs in Contemporary Writing at University of Pennsylvania, where he is also senior editor of the online poetry archive PennSound. Goldsmith is also the founding editor of the online archive UbuWeb, a universal source of reference for avant-garde art on the Internet. An underground project that has no institutional backing or budget of any kind, UbuWeb is an exhaustive and also personal repository that reflects the tastes, quirks and obsessions of its creator. A compulsive digital collector, Goldsmith's personal archive extends far beyond the in itself unfathomable UbuWeb.
ubuweb.com

MEMORABILIA. COLLECTING SOUNDS WITH...

Kenneth Goldsmith

Kenneth Goldsmith, founder of Ubuweb – the most important online repository on sound experimentation –, takes us on a journey through his personal history as a collector of sounds that spans from his childhood to adult life and the creation of Ubuweb, by way of different stages of obsession with what he calls the 'accumulation of cultural artefacts'.

01. Summary

Ubuweb may not be an ordinary sound archive, precisely because Kenneth Goldsmith is no ordinary archivist. He himself is quick to refer to his lack of training in the field as both a disadvantage and a strength, and the sum of the two produced the amateur immediacy that made it possible to create and develop such an ambitious repository, conceived and managed outside of the usual channels. Ubuweb has always been a true reflection of Goldsmith's personality and way of looking at the world, and this becomes apparent in this personal reconstruction of a lifetime of sound collecting. Starting with childhood memories of his grandfather's book collection, Goldsmith looks back over the path that began with him as an avid music consumer and led him to (or to better understand) his obsessive dedication to the 'accumulation of cultural artefacts' and ultimately to founding Ubuweb.

Goldsmith remains aloof from some of the practices traditionally associated with music and sound collecting, and chooses abundance over rivalry and exclusivity, the content of records over their appearance or condition, so that listening is stripped of many of its tangential elements (what William Bennett calls 'transparent concessions'). Goldsmith's personal history as a collector is essentially the history of the disintegration of the object, which plays out in parallel to the evolution of sound media and the emergence of the digital networks, in which the values and interests of this accidental archivist and poet find their natural habitat. From Howlin' Wolf to Joseph Beuys, from the Beatles to People Like Us, the deconstruction of Goldsmith's collections sheds light on his tendency to continue to stockpile beyond the limits of the humanly graspable, his interest in eccentricity and the unexpected that pays no heed to artistic genres, and his incurable obsession with sharing with his peers.

02. Playlist

Part I

- Moondog, 'Moondog's Symphony 1 (Timberwolf)', 1949 (R 2004)
- Marcella Riordan, 'Soft Morning City! Lsp! I Am Leaf', 2009
- The Beatles, 'I Want to Hold your Hand', 1963
- Black Sabbath, 'War Pigs', 1970
- The Greatful Dead, 'Friend of the Devil', 1970
- Poison Idea, 'Rich Get Richer', 1984
- La Monte Young & Marian Zazeela, '13 I 73 5:35-6:14:03 PM NYC from Map of 49's Dream the Two Systems of Eleven Sets of Galactic Intervals Ornamental Lightyears Tracery', 1974
- The Beatles, 'Revolution 9', 1968
- Bad Radio Dog Massacre, 'Dog Pound Found Sound', unknown date
- Joseph Beuys, 'Sonne Statt Reagan', 1982
- Howlin' Wolf, 'Everybody's in the Mood', 1970
- Jim Roche, 'Bubble Blower', 1972
- Prince Jammy vs. King Tubby, 'Ethiopia Rock', 1983
- People Like Us, 'Another Kind of Humor (Intro)', 2002
- Menashe Skulnik, 'I'm Not in a Hurry', unknown date (R 2010)
- Ogden Nash, 'Word About Winter', unknown date



[Kenneth Goldsmith during the lecture MEMORABILIA. COLLECTING SOUNDS WITH...]

John Cage, 'Inlets [Excerpt]', 1977
François Dufrêne, 'Les Joyeux Sisyphes II', 1979
The Kipper Kids, 'The Sheik of Araby', 1980
People Like Us, 'Green, Green Grass', 2006
Guy Debord, 'Situationisten A', unknown date
Kenneth Goldsmith, '59 Snoutzevexations 95', 1997

03. Related links

Ubuweb
www.ubu.com

Kenneth Goldsmith's bibliography
epc.buffalo.edu/authors/goldsmith

Interview with Kenneth Goldsmith, 2007
archinect.com/features/article/59857/ubuweb-vu-kenneth-goldsmith

Interview with Kenneth Goldsmith, 2010
rwm.macba.cat/en/sonia/sonia_kenneth_goldsmith/capsula

'Epiphanies: Kenneth Goldsmith', an article for The Wire, 2011
www.thewire.co.uk/articles/6445/

Conversation with Kenneth Goldsmith on his sound collection
rwm.macba.cat/en/extra/memorabilia_kenneth_goldsmith_conversation/capsula

MEMORABILIA. COLLECTING SOUNDS WITH... Kenneth Goldsmith lecture MP3
rwm.macba.cat/uploads/draft/kenneth_lecture.mp3

MEMORABILIA. COLLECTING SOUNDS WITH... Kenneth Goldsmith lecture teaser
rwm.macba.cat/en/extra/teaser_memorabilia_kenneth_goldsmith/capsula

Kenneth Goldsmith at Ràdio Web MACBA
rwm.macba.cat/es/kenneth_goldsmith_tag

04. Acknowledgements

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05. Copyright note

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