Curriculum Vitae

Robert Pravda

Robert Pravda (26-12-1967) is an sound artist and performer currently living in Rotterdam in the Netherlands.

Studied interdisciplinary art on the Royal Academy for Fine Arts Music and Dance in the Hague at Image and Sound department

From 2002 'till present, he is teaching sound related courses and developing research projects as a member of the teaching team of the ArtScience department on the Royal Academy of Art and Royal Conservatory

Since 2009 he is an active member of Tilt. Tilt is an interdisciplinary platform founded by choreographer Andrea Bozic, sound artist Robert Pravda and visual artist Julia Willms to inspire and support artistic practice and thinking beyond disciplines.

Selected projects and presentations:

- $ Untitled,

16 mm film for prepared film projector and electronics.
Two strokes of 8mm, find footage, films printed next to each other on 16 mm film.
The projector was prepared for manual playing with a rope attached to a main axis.

- XorC,

An abstract computer game which was programmed and played by Peter Max and Robert Pravda using four Commodore 64 personal computers. The game is based on the idea of using the keyboards as a musical instrument to create sound and colour pixels. Both players were equipped with pre-programmed sequences of colour and sound which enabled them to play against one another in real-time. The game was performed on Sonic Acts 2000 festival in Paradiso Amsterdam, in Korzo Theatre at KC Lab evening in The Hag, at the gala evening for the fusion between Leiden University and the Royal Academy of Fine Arts Music and Dance in The Hag, and in the WORM salon in Rotterdam, and on Transmediale festival in Berlin.

- Out of Data,

A collective project involving current and former students of Sonology and Interfaculty Image and Sound.
This ensemble try to push the boundaries of live electronic music and image true inventing new electronic instruments and software.

We performed live for the New Forms festival in Theater aan het Spui, The Hag and on Sonic Acts 2001 and festival in Paradiso Amsterdam. A CD-ROM Out of Data

was published by Stichting Paradiso as a part of the "Sonic Acts- The Art of Point Pixel Programming" booklet.

- Octachord, an unstable electro-mechanical string instrument.

The eight strings of the instrument are driven by small motors on the both side of the sliding bridge.
The sound of the Octachord is a cluster of unstable upper harmonics of the strings. All the parameters, the speed of the exciting motors and the position of the bridge is controllable true MIDI protocol.

The instrument was presented at Haagse Hoogeschool (November 2001) as a part of ENHANCE, a music-theatre piece, December 2001 at Gala evening at the Royal Conservatory for the 175 years anniversary, and in 2004 on tour with Mondrian Quartet in London (Purcell Room) and New Music festival in Leeds (UK).
The Instrument is still in development with special attention on the acoustic quality of the produced sound.

- 5x5x5, a kinetic light and sound object.

The light sources are ordinary light bulbs (25W, 220 V) the most common light sources in every household. This light sources are organised in a three dimensional matrix with five positions in each (x,y,z) direction, 125 in total. Each light is seen as one cell of this "electric organism".
125 speakers are connected in the series with their own light bulb and the dimmer. The sound coming out of each speaker is actually the sound of the 50 Hz, 220 V electricity.

Various algorithms can be applied for composing light and sound movements.
This piece was exhibited in Berlin on the Transmediale festival, Camp Tipsy and Chaos Camp, in Ljubljana (Slovenie) gallery "Kapelica", and on DEAF festival in Rotterdam, .
Awarded with visitors price of Shell's Young Artist Award.

- Gaslab - a homage to Piet Mondrian and Dick Rijmakers -

Composition for four trumpets lights and electronics. Commissioned by Stichtindg Axes. The piece was presented as part of the Trump Bienale in October 2002 in Eindhoven.

- RecPlay

Founder and coordinator of a sound workshop and ensemble for electro-mechanical improvised music at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts from 2002 'till present. From the very beginning RecPlay had regular performances in various well-known as well as obscure venues, for instance in places like Vooruit, Gent, Zeebelt, The Hague, Worm, Rotterdam, TodaysArt festival and EXIS, Den Haag, RADIO West, STRP festival Eindhoven, Korzo Theater and many more.

- Structet - Building Music (Vertical Orchestra)
A fluctuating formation constisting of 52 visual and sonic improvisers. This group reformed in september 2010 to develop and perform the sequel to their performance at TodaysArt in 2006.

In the Atrium of the The Hague Town Hall they presented a monumental, architectonic vertical matrix of improvised electronic music and projections. An army of musicians on laptops and custom built instruments formed an electronic orchestra that performed on seven floors. The 'conductors' behind the mixing boards for both image and sound transformed the different inputs into one single piece of music and projections.

Structet adapts itself to the building or spatial structure where it performs, with a preference for the vertical dimension. The structure of the improvisation is based on a study of the proportions, scale, colour, history and function of the location of the performance. This performance was based on a study of Richard Meier's architecture of the Town Hall.

- De Leslies
Collaboration with composer and instrument inventor Horst Rickels. Spatial sound composition performed on 10 modified rotating speakers (Leslie speakers).
2012 performed on November Music festival in Den Bosch
2013 performed in Gaslab, Eindhoven and Sound Art Festival, Krakow Poland.

- Rapid Air Displacement
Electro acoustic improvisation with use of spatial sound feedback. Space used as medium and instrument, a project which is adopting to the acoustic qualities and characteristics of the space where is performed.
2014 Performed on Rammel fest, sound art festival in Amsterdam

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- The Smallest Sound at the Biggest Distance
Composition for a continuously growing orchestra. Anyone who owns the packaged composition with the score and the instrument, becomes a performer in this orchestra. The composition has a beginning but no end. Every time a performer plays the score, the composition continues. The time interval between the individual events can range from a few seconds to a few years. The distance between the performers can vary from very close (in the same space) to very far (on two sides of the globe). This way, the orchestra continuously grows in the number of its members and spreads out around the world with its performers.

2014 presented at Beauty Bauhaus and Beast festival
2014 presented at November Music festival, s' Hertogenbosch

- Monoid aka My new speaker
Rotating speaker installation based on the construction principle of a gyroscope,

with the 360o freedom of the movement on three axis. The properties of the space and the kinetic properties of the installation are the basic ingredients of the composition for this spatial auditory experience. The sonic experience of the space is characterised by the interference patterns of the projected sound waves and the timbre (colour) of the sound, that is determined by the room self and the speed of the sound source movement. This sound installation is a part of an ongoing research on the theme of sounding space and spacing sound.

2014 exhibited at November Music festival, s'Hertogenbosch

2015 exhibited at Museum for Contemporary Art in Novi Sad, Serbia

2015 exhibited at Ars Electronica festival in Linz, Austria

2015 exhibited at ZKM Karlsruhe at the Insonic festival

-Composition and performance in theater production, in collaboration with Andrea Bozic and Julia Willms

2004/5 **It's Me But I'm No Longer There,** Amsterdam; installation performance, co-produced by the Dance Unlimited and Something Raw Festival, Amsterdam;

2004/5 **Ways To Multiply Yourself (My Body Is A Haunted Hause)**, multimedia performanceAmsterdam, Gasthuis Theater production

2006 **Still Life With Man And Woman**, multimedia performance, co-produced by the Gasthuis Theater, Amsterdam and the Plateaux Festival, Frankfurt a.M.

2008 **Nothing Can Surprise Us**, interdisciplinary performance produced by the Frascati, Amsterdam, co-produced by Sophiensaele, Berlin,

2009 **: Paradiso (A Study for Paradise)** – a performance commissioned and produced by Emio Greco PC / ICK Amsterdam, premiere Frascati, Amsterdam, tour 2010-2011

2010 **After Trio A** – a performance commissioned and co-produced by COVER#2 project, produced by ICKAmsterdam in co-production with Frascati,

2010 **Mars Landing** - a performance commissioned and co-produced by the Rathenau Institute, the Hague, produced by the Frascati in co-production with ICKAmsterdam

2012 **Lithium** – a performance commissioned and produced by the ICKAmsterdam in co- production with Frascati, Amsterdam,

2013 **Intergalactic (An Attempt To Overcome The Binary)** – an interdisciplinary performance by Andrea Bozic, Robert Pravda and Julia Willms / Tilt, produced by Tilt, co-produced by Frascati, WEB (wpZimmer, Vooruit, Le Vivat, Frascati) and the International Choreographic Arts Centre Amsterdam