

Cathy Lane



Cathy is a lecturer and sound artist who works at UAL. She is the director of their research branch of sound arts CRISAP. She focuses mostly on field recordings and capturing the natural world around her

We were show during this lecture her piece entitled “am I here?” Which takes us on a acoustic journey around the world through the various field recordings taken through her adventures. Through the piece we hear her ask “am I here?” Which in my mind relates to how people are often not heard in recordings. It brings into question where the recordist is in relation to the sounds themselves. This also challenges the idea that the recordings have to solely feature the noise themselves and can’t feature the recordist

She uses her work to investigate issues and portrays political issues and memory. She is interested in when certain voices get muted or forgotten. She hopes to give a voice to those who have had those taken away. She believes in histories, stories and sound with all its slipperyness. Sound can hold different stories and fragments. Much if her work uses recorded spoken word, field recordings and archival recordings. She investigates the relationship between these different types of recordings. She’s interested in what type of knowledge can sound submitte and how can

you understand; what happens when there is no sound. What is the past has been silenced.

- Space
- Field recording
- Words
- Archives
- Place
- Story
- History and memory
- Documentary and abstraction

The Hebrides suite: Cathy Lane

Places hold and transmit memories. The Hebrides are islands off the coast of Scotland. More than 200 islands with a few inhabitants. Total population: 26,000. The islands rely on planes and ferries for food and transport. Strongest Gaelic speaking island in the world. The Outer Hebrides was the focus of most of her work, she was investigating the relation between people and place. These pieces were about the people, culture and weather. It focused a lot on the archival recordings and photography of the Outer Hebrides.

The project investigated the history and impact of the area in collaboration with the locals and historical associations. She made a number of field trips, recording sounds and researching historical archives of the area. She worked alongside the local children and asked them to interview those in their family or friends.

Sandy Jaffas:

A collection of the interviews and field recordings taken in the area in Sandy Jaffas. These recordings were taken by the children she worked alongside in 2015. It is explained in the recordings how the name Sandy Jaffas came to be and why that name was chosen and also goes over why the area is the way it is.

Square Peg Round Hole;

A piece commissioned for a German festival, she was unable to gather the recordings in person so had to partake in long distance research. She firsted looking into the town of Iagenhagen and then the iconography of the circle. She looked into how people with learning disabilities were treated and how society viewed them. They were believed to be aliens that were switched out with regular children and they needed to be taught how to be regular and into society. The children were taught the building blocks of life, through learning speaking and hearing.