

sleek

Magazine for art and fashion

sleek

sound
silence



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sound silence

We hear all kinds of sounds every day: music, traffic, laughing, screaming, sounds both beautiful and terrible. In art, it's no different. Not every work that emits sound can be defined as Sound Art, and on the other hand, it is impossible to give a full definition of all that Sound Art embodies, so we won't bother trying. But on the following pages you'll find some very diverse examples of sound making in art, from artist bands to munching woodworms, and corresponding audio samples on the CD accompanying this issue – all seasoned with comments by some of the world's leading music critics.

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NIK NOWAK

The world of high-fidelity sound systems is a universe in and of itself. The market spits out products uniting the latest in state-of-the-art sound technology and high-end glossy design, perfecting the apparatus of recording and listening in living rooms. After all, these fetish objects must also be aesthetically pleasing; the superiority of form and function needs to be clearly visible. Nick Nowak comments on our habits of consumption with his manipulated hybrids of SUVs and giant mobile boom boxes. His kinetic devices for recording sound and giving it off, are absurdly impractical – maybe that's why his tank looks a bit like a white elephant.

03: NIK NOWAK – Pulstar composed on Panzer, 2011

“Pulstar takes inspiration from the christening of his Panzer tank, a caterpillar-tracked sound system steered by Nowak from a sonic control cockpit. A champagne bottle is smashed against the hull, and the tank is jerked out of its sub-bass snoring. System startup begins with menacing digital crackle and hum, until a tiny piano sample zippers in some barbarian hip-hop beats amid a flurry of skip-tracer loops and noise shrapnel. Finally the jetitive fires up as the Panzer starts its mission. US tank drivers in the Middle East crank out Death Metal in their cabs while on duty; Nowak’s metal music machine generates its own brutalising aural assault.”
Rob Young



NIK NOWAK, Panzer 2011, Mini dumper, sound, mixed media, www.nowak.com

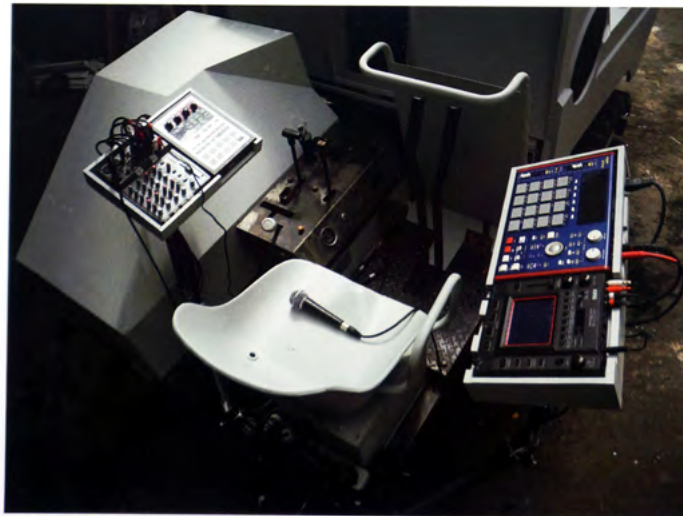


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03: NIK NOWAK – *Pulsator* composed on *Panzer*, 2011

»Pulsator takes inspiration from the ›christening‹ of his Panzer tank, a caterpillar-tracked sound system steered by Nowak from a sonic control cockpit. A champagne bottle is smashed against the hull, and the tank is jerked out of its sub-bass snoring. System startup begins with menacing digital crackle and hum, until a tiny piano sample ushers in some barbarian hip-hop beats amid a flurry of skip-tracer loops and noise-shrapnel. Finally the ignition fires up as the Panzer starts its mission. US tank drivers in the Middle East crank out Death Metal in their cabs while on duty; Nowak's metal music machine generates its own brutalising aural assault.«

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NIK NOWAK, *Panzer*, 2011. Mini dumper, sound, mixed media, 340x140x165 cm.