

# BLACK BIRD'S SKY

2007



*the colored projection evolves and transforms according to the voice samples*

For the exhibition of the Sommerakademie at the Centre Paul Klee in Bern in August 2007, I created an installation which associates «the sky», a video projection of uniform, colored lights that accompany the sound of my overlapping voices singing, with «the black bird», a strange, sonorous presence in space.

In the middle of the room, a black plastic mannequin wears a large wavy skirt made of grate and a hat with two horns which I have purposefully placed on its headless body. Previously I had worn and walked the streets with this costume for my BLACK BIRD piece presented during the *Der längste Tag non-stop performance* on June 21st, 2007 in Zürich.

The dress including the hat is a stand for thirty small loudspeakers which emit high-pitched and electronic versions of my voice in response to the heavenly voices of the projection. When a spectator enters the room, the sound from the video projection starts and the coloured surface begins to transform, shifting from dark blue to bluish grey, then to deep red, purple



*the electronic sounds emitted by the creature's dress respond to the sky's voices*

or brown as the colors of the sky after a storm or during the sunset. The manipulated voices emanating from the bird's costume bring a rhythmic touch to the project and evoke the darker side of Nature: its destructive power and the disasters which it can provoke.

The prerecorded voice samples and lights are played randomly. As the spectator moves around the space he or she triggers another sample to start playing. When he or she leaves the room, the sample playing at the time, lasting from five seconds to two minutes, continues to play until it ends whereas the last colored image remains visible on the screen. In this way, each time a new visitor enters the room he or she faces a different color which alters accordingly.

The costume I designed was built with the help of Christine Arias while the soldering of the loudspeakers and cables, and the interactive programming of the installation in Max/MSP/Jitter were realized with the precious collaboration of Antoine Petroff.