

Li Tavor & Nicolas Buzzi

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Date

02.12.2021
22.01.2022

Location

Milano

Istituto Svizzero

Information

Talking Measures or How to Lose Track

Category

Art, Installation, Music

istitutsvizzero.it

When speaking about their work *Talking Measures or How to Lose Track* – developed especially for the exhibition space at Istituto Svizzero in Milan – Li Tavor and Nicolas Buzzi refer to it as a musical installation. The artists, who both studied composition, are interested in the relationship between sound and architecture, and the characteristics of sound and acoustics in architectural spaces. Both sound and architecture create spaces, whereby the space created by sound and the architectural space overlap and are mutually dependent. Sound and music are therefore always linked to the spatial nature of architecture – and to me, to us, to our body that perceives them.

So let us enter this sound space, this architectural space, which is directly connected to Milan's urban space through the large window front of the building, constructed in the 1950s. *Talking Measures or How to Lose Track* is a complex installation. On the visual level, it consists of various objects: nine self-made loudspeakers, a satellite dish, and a paravent folding screen. Each of these objects has a specific function, an "agent function", as Li Tavor and Nicolas Buzzi put it. They form an architectural space and direct our movements. They also act as agents on the acoustic level. Each performs a musical task: spreading, reflecting, or blocking sound waves, sounds, and music. Li Tavor and Nicolas Buzzi notably play with the laws of acoustic perception, which works according to certain parameters. Informed by the artists' expert knowledge of the speed and properties of sound waves, for instance, or the peculiarities of different sound sources, *Talking Measures or How to Lose Track* becomes a three-dimensional musical installation that challenges our usual reliance on fixed points of orientation and standardized strategies of perception.

Now it's up to us to explore this space. Our movement alters our perception. This enables us to subtly shift our subjective spatial experience of *Talking Measures or How to Lose Track*, and to alter the sonic event, perhaps even to control it. At the same time, the objects in the space can be ambiguous – what we see does not necessarily correspond to what we hear. The large, shiny bass speaker does not emit low tones as expected, but high frequencies instead. The satellite dish does not receive and bundle signals, but rather sound, while simultaneously functioning as an object with its own signalling effect – similar to the television antenna on the *Guild House* by Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown in Philadelphia from 1964. While the nine loudspeakers in particular serve to demarcate the space visually and acoustically as sources of sound, the multiplied voices of Li Tavor, which emit from these loudspeakers, create yet another space – a personal space – in which a sense of intimacy is created, since our perception is strongly oriented towards the human voice. As exhibition visitors, we therefore become part of the installation. By actively listening, we create our own individual spatial experience. We might be irritated, or we might listen more closely; perhaps we change our position as listeners, and change our perspective. With *Talking Measures or How to Lose Track*, Li Tavor and Nicolas Buzzi also remind us that how and what we listen to are always culturally and socially influenced, so that there is also a political dimension. Though a sound might immediately penetrate my ear, it is up to me to doubt, to listen more closely, to change my perspective. Perhaps it is in this brief moment of disorientation that I hear new sounds, new voices.

Gioia Dal Molin, December 2021

For information:
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Biographies

Li Tavor was born in Basel-Stadt in 1983 and currently lives and works in Zurich. She is an architect, graduated from ETH Zurich (MA), and a musician and composer, graduated from ZHdK in Zurich (MA in electroacoustic composition). Her practice includes design, compositions for ensembles, theater and film, performance, and installation. She was working as a research assistant at the department of architecture of ETH Zurich, was a guest professor at RMIT Melbourne and currently works as a lecturer for the BA in Fine Arts at ZHdK Zurich. Together with Alessandro Bosshard, Matthew van der Ploeg and Ani Vihervaara, she was selected by the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia in 2017 to curate the Swiss Pavilion at the 16th International Architecture Biennial in Venice, where their exhibition *Svizzera 240: House Tour* was awarded the Golden Lion for Best National Participation. Furthermore, her work was shown at Theaterspektakel Zurich, Theater Gessnerallee Zurich, NGV Melbourne, The Architecture Foundation London, CIVA Brussels, Arsenic Lausanne, Tanzquartier Vienna, Tanzfabrik Berlin, Tanzhaus Zurich, Kölnischer Kunstverein, Taylor Macklin Zurich, Kunsthau Bregenz, Piano Nobile Geneva, Stadtgalerie Bern, Sharjah Architecture Triennial, The Swiss Art Awards, São Paulo Architecture Biennial.

Nicolas Buzzi was born in Bern in 1987 and currently lives and works in Zurich and Frankfurt. Nicolas Buzzi's practice includes works for ensemble, solo artists, music installations, performances, sound and music for opera, theater and film, instrument making, mediation and sound direction. Nicolas Buzzi's work is and was presented at Theater Basel, at NAC Lithuania, at the Venice Architecture Biennale, at the Cabaret Voltaire Zurich, at the Edinburgh International Film Festival, at the HEK Basel, at the HKW Berlin, at Kampnagel Hamburg, at the Kanuti Gildi Saal Tallinn, at the Kölnischer Kunstverein, Kunsthau Bregenz, Kunstmuseum Basel, Locarno Film Festival, NUS Mesum Singapore, São Paulo Architecture Biennial, Schauspielhaus Zurich, Taylor Macklin Zurich, ZKM Karlsruhe.

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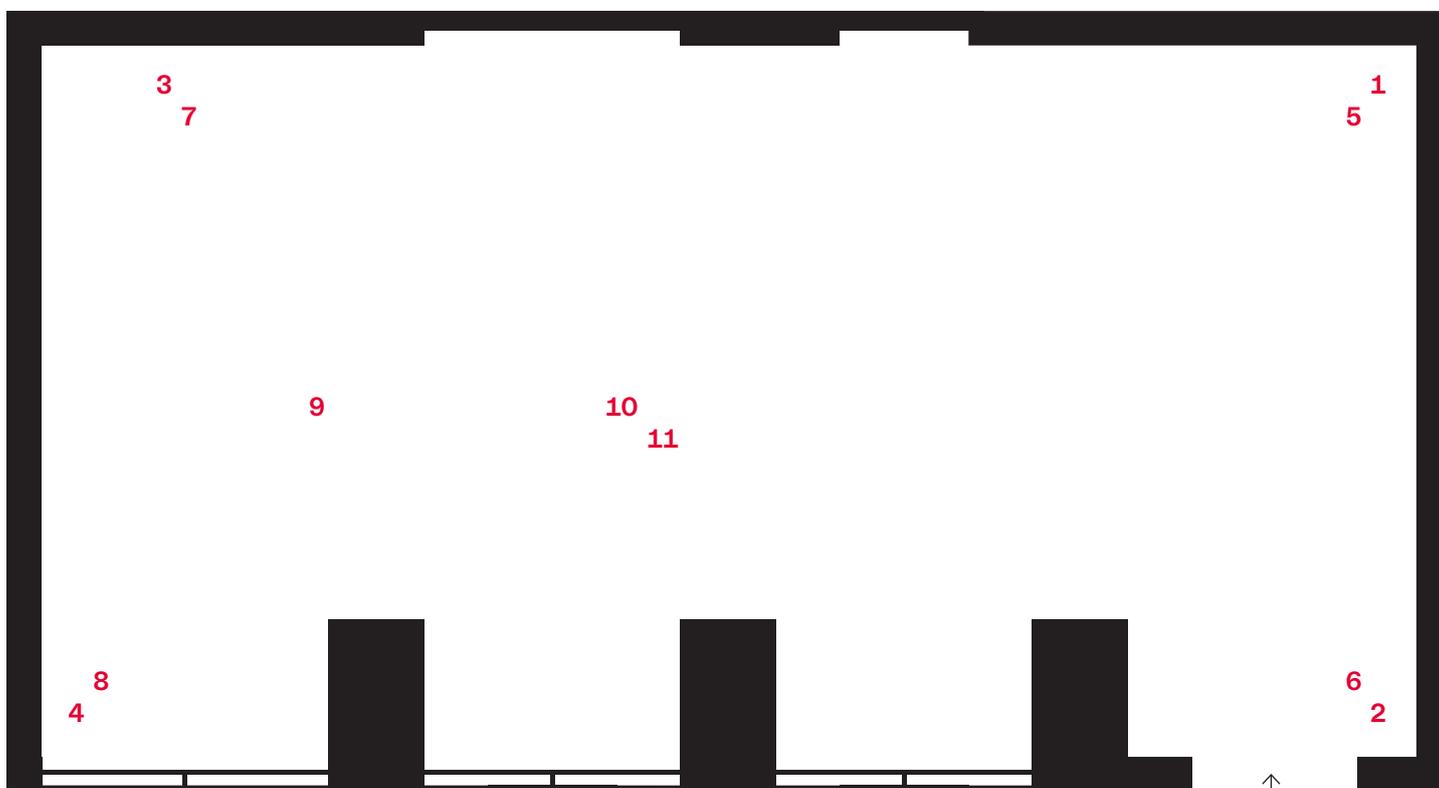
Opening times:
Wednesday – Friday: 11:00–17:00
Thursday: 11:00–20:00
Saturday: 14:00–18:00

Istituto Svizzero
Via del Vecchio Politecnico 3
Milano

14.01.2022
H18:30

Talk with Li Tavor, Nicolas Buzzi, Gaia Martino
and Salome Voegelin
Moderated by Francesco Bergamo,
curated by Victoria Easton

Followed by a performance with Li Tavor, Nicolas Buzzi
and Martina Buzzi



1-8

Panel speakers: wood panels 70x70 cm,
8" broadband paper membrane speaker cones, stands

9

Subwoofer box: black acrylic glass box 90x90x90 cm,
18" woofer paper membrane speaker cone, stand

10

Mobile screens, Klein, Roll-On-Flex Paravent system
on wheels

11

Satellite dish, Gibertini OP 150 L