

HARUKI NISHIJIMA

Born in 1971

Educational Background:

Master of Fine Arts, Mural Painting Course

Tokyo National University of

Fine Arts and Music .1998

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Exhibition:

「Toride Art Project 2000」 Ibaragi Japan Nov.2000

「electropti alternative future」 Tokyo Japan Mar.2000

「Oasis In The City ver.2.5」 Ishikawa Japan Oct.1998

「Oasis In The City ver.1.1」 Tokyo Japan Sep.1998

「The Black Box」 Tokyo Japan May,1995

Title of the Work: Remain In Light

Artistic Concept

This work is visual representation of ambient analog sound waves, which have been captured using an "electronic insect-collecting kit." The process of collecting these waves begins with a person carrying an insect net, which is attached to a device designed to capture the waves. The net functions as an antenna, for catching and accumulating radio-wave data.

Today, it is possible to get a lot of information instantly from great distances without physically moving around. Time and place move, but have no relationship to the body. Invisible data which we can't see revolves in space and does not appear to be special because we can't see it.

This work converts bits of analog communication data, and allows the viewer to participate in the work by controlling the amount of "time," "air space" and "place" in his/her viewing space. The viewer can see the results of the three processes which were used to capture these "electronic insects." The first is discovering the "electronic insect," the second is capturing the "insect," and the third is converting the analog data and presenting it visually in an interactive environment.

In the past, our world was filled with natural insects. However, in our modern society, there are fewer natural insects, and they have been replaced by "electronic insects," or bits of sound data. In the city, there are numerous opportunities to collect these "electronic insects," but in the countryside there are fewer opportunities to collect them because there are fewer man-made sounds.

In order to discover and capture these "electronic insects," first we have to look for them in their natural habitat. Clues are necessary in order to find and "capture" them. For example, I select the habitat of a residential area on the basis of places where cars are parked, where there are fragrances coming from dining tables in a home, and the day and time when I'm in the area. These situations lead to and produce certain sounds. However, when I am in a city, I find situations and places which produce very different sounds. I have tried to capture these sounds on the basis of this information.

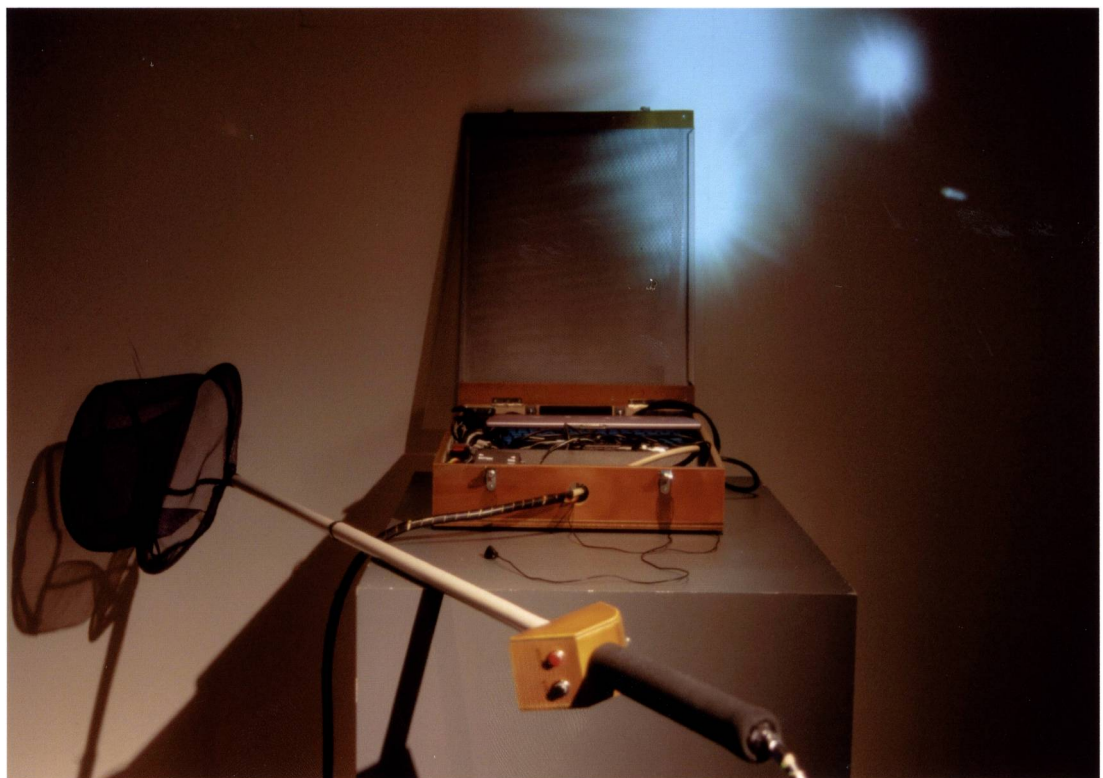
The viewer will understand that this interactive space is his/her visible environment - a replication of the world outside. This is a modern version of insect collecting.

The "electronic insects" are collected with a net which has been built beforehand, and is similar to those used to capture fireflies. The net is made from a cotton cloth which is often used to cover windows to prevent insects from entering homes. However, my net was designed to bring "insects" inside.

In my interactive presentation, each "electronic insect" is represented by a different color. Each color represents one frequency. Some sounds, such as radio data, are easy to capture, and therefore the visual representation of that data's color will appear more often. I hope that the viewer will notice that there are a greater amount of data of a certain color, and much less of others - a reflection of the sounds heard in the city. A color chart will be available for viewers to observe.

Will analog data become a thing of the past? Now, most communication data are digitized, and the demand for analog data continues to decrease. Actually, data from analog cellular phones became an extinct species of electronic insect in Japan last year. The quality of analog sound data seems to be inferior to that of digital data, but in fact, our real world is filled with analog sounds. I feel it is important to include both digital and analog data in our lives because it is more representative of the real world. Analog data helps you to remember the past. It is my hope that there will be a continued demand for both analog and digital data and that humans will realize the importance of both technological and non-technological interaction.

As for the true insect collecting I experienced in the past, there was always a worldly feeling which I felt was universal. "Electronic insect collecting" is the tool and the means for connecting the technological world to its prototypical experience.



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Electronic Insect-Collection Kit