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attention Margit Knip

ARS ELECTRONICA STATEMENT from Benoît Maubrey

On Audio Clothes and other Electronic Sculptures.

The two basic elements in my mobile sculptures are human bodies and sound. These are in themselves not unusual materials. The art I make is not "high-tech" it's normal: my tools are cheap and commonplace. Most the electronics I use can be found inside the toys that litter the floor of most seven-year-old child's playroom.

Furthermore custom-made solid-state and integrated circuits may even add to an individual's charms. Loudspeakers have long been integrated into modern buildings, private homes, cars, buses, subways and streets --wherever you find people you'll find loudspeakers. It seems only logical that the two elements be combined, even your average neighborhood policeman beeps and buzzes as he walks his beat.

The computer chips used by the Audio Ballerinas are obtained by taking answering machines apart. When you superimpose it on someone's body it just looks kind of strange at first, so did Sony Walkmans when they first came on the market, however an essential difference with these latter objects of perverse and anti-social behavior is that my Walk-ladies don't hoard their noise in their ears, they dish it out like Santa Claus does presents at Christmastime.

Benoît Maubrey,
Berlin, June 1991