Arctic Transitions: In the Age of Carbon

Sound/Video Installation, Recorded North of the Arctic Circle Richard Lerman © 2016 BMI

Recordings gathered from August 2014 through January 2016 in Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden. The majority of the recordings were made in the north of Finland at the University of Helsinki Biological Research Station in Kilpisjärvi during several BioArts research residencies encouraging artistic and scientific collaboration.

Using piezo- electric devices, I have amplified and recorded small vibrations in the carbon fiber rods, ice, grass, trees, rocks, etc. You can see these self-built devices attached to many materials in the video pieces. Carbon fiber rods of varying diameters from 1.5mm to 3 mm produce a wide range of sounds.

Chronologically ordered

- 1. Eider Ducks, Cape Ptichy Bazar, Wrangel Island, Russia, Aug 2014
- 2. Pikku Malla Nature Reserve, Finland, hydrophone & carbon fiber rod. One hears ice crystals forming around the rod in the brook, Oct 2014
- 3. Lake Kilpisjärvi, two carbon fiber rods in the snow and wind, Mar 2015
- 4. Ice Wall Melting, South of Skibotn, Norway, carbon fiber rod, April 2015
- 5. The Muonio and Etuväylä Rivers at the border of Finland and Sweden, hydrophone and carbon fiber rod, May 2015
- 6. Kilpisjärvi, hydrophone and carbon fiber rods, June 2015
- 7. Kilpisjärvi at first light, carbon fiber rod in ice, Dec 2015
- 8. Lake Kilpisjärvi, grass and carbon fiber rod, Jan 2016

Other Places

- 1. Mt. Saana, a Fell, high above Lake Kilpisjärvi, Grass, rocks, & carbon rod, Oct 2014
- 2. Lake Komosol, Wrangel Island, Russia, abandoned hunter's lodge, baidarka, walrus skull and carbon rod on the beach, Aug 2014
- 3. Ärsönniva River along border with Finland and Sweden, hydrophone, May 2015
- 4. Moon Phrases at 4 AM, Kilpisjärvi, birch trees, Dec 2015
- 5. Paeskatun, Norway, a slate mountain, plants, carbon rods and a young man splitting slate, June 2015
- 6. Below Mt. Saana, birch tree in the wind and fog, June 2015
- 7. Lake Kilpisjärvi, plants, hydrophone and carbon fiber rod in melting ice, June 2015

Animals-Humans

- 1. Moth, Grass and Wind above Lake Kilpisjärvi, Oct 2014
- 2. Polar Bears, Walruses, Ice, near Cape Blossom, Wrangel Island, Russia. Sound from hydrophone recording of walruses at Kolyuchin Island, Aug 2014
- 3. A Lemming running from Sweden to Finland, hydrophone and ice cracking, May 2015
- 4. Skiers on Lake Kilpisjärvi, carbon fiber rods Mar 2015
- 5. Alta Museum, Norway, 7000 year old rock art carvings, wind and a hydrophone in the Barents Sea, May 2015
- 6. Reindeer and wind, at the border with Finland and Norway, May 2015
- 7. Leenanlampi, Norway, brook, ptarmigan and reindeer fence along the Finnish border, with hydrophone, carbon fiber rods and fence, June 2015