

Andrea Szigetvári: Swinging Door - for a dancer and live electronics

The inspiration for the piece came from a text by Shunryu Suzuki comparing the process of breathing to a swinging door.

" When we inhale, the air comes in to the inner world, when we exhale, the air goes out to the outer world. The inner world is limitless and the outer world is also limitless. We say inner world or outer world, but actually there is just one whole world. In this limitless world our throat is like a swinging door. The air comes in and goes out like someone passing thru a swinging door. If you think, I breath, the I is extra. There is no you to say I. What we call I is just a swinging door which moves when we inhale and when we exhale. It just moves. That is all. When your mind is pure and calm enough to follow this movement, there is nothing, nor I, nor world, nor mind, nor body, just a swinging door."*

The movements of prerecorded, preprocessed and processed in realtime sounds coming from the throat (talking, breathing) and of imaginary swinging door imitations are activated by the hands of a dancer, whose motions are captured by a video camera. The piece is dedicated to my friend Stewart Collinson, whose ideas and voice served as a starting point for the composition.

The piece were comissioned by the Bipolar Grant.

* Shunryu Suzuki: Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind
Informal Talks on Zen meditation and practice
Weatherhill
New York & Tokyo