

JOANNA HOFFMANN: TONES & WHISPERS

3 channel multimedia installation, 2005 (docum.)

Soundscape: Dave Lawrence



The piece recalls Pythagorean concept of the mathematical Harmony of the World, acknowledged as the most influential and beautiful thought born by the human mind. The idea of consonant relations between Musica Mundana (Music of Spheres) and Musica Humana (Music of the human body and soul) has inspired generations of both scientists and artists trying to define the elusive and transient human identity in face of the infinitude of the Cosmos and its universal laws.

Today, when the existential emptiness is being filled up with the vague cloud of Big Data and knowledge, Pythagorean dream does not lose its actuality. Still, the updated version of Music of Sphere, with vibrating tones reflecting the movement of planets around the Sun, opens the sonic essay on the Golden Record carried by spaceships Voyager I & II on their inter-galaxy journey. These vibrations, containing data of milliards years of existence indicate not only our position in the Space, but also our *elusive*, creative and ever-evolving identity.

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Joanna Hoffmann (Dr hab) is Professor of the University of Arts in Poznan, where she leads the Studio for Transdisciplinary Projects & Research AE/UAP.

She is also co-founder and Chair of the Art & Science Node in Berlin. Her artistic works have been widely presented i.a.: at the Center for Contemporary Arts (Warsaw); Science Museum/DANA Centre (London); MOCA Museum of Contemporary Art (London); Transmediale Festival (Berlin); EPO European Patent Office, Berlin; WRO Media Art Biennale (Wroclaw); MUSE Centre of Photography and the Moving Image (New York); BioQuant Centre (Heidelberg, DE); Hiroshima City Museum (J). She was an artist in residence at i.a.: Eilslabs/DKFZ /Heidelberg University; KW Film University Potsdam-Babelsberg DE; CEMA Centre for Electronic Media Art/Srishti College & NCBS National Centre of Biological Science, Bangalore (IN); KHOJ & ICGB International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology New Delhi (IN); Reiterated Fellow of the Polish Minister of Culture .