

AUTOMAT (2005)

Marc Sabat / Peter Sabat



(composite panorama from 360° camera pan)

“AUTOMAT” is a superimposition of several duos presented simultaneously, inspired by the image of Berlin in 1999, a divided city ten years after the fall of the Berlin wall.

The 14' video is composed from two superimposed 360° panning shots, beginning and ending with a car wash automat near Berlin's central bus station. The moving elements are seen as fleeting, transitory shadows against the doubled urban background.

The music consists of two violins performing a composition constructed from precisely tuned intervals, producing a counterpoint of complex dissonances, sharply focussed consonances and combination tones. The two monophonic field recordings taken from the respective video shots are panned hard left and right, producing a faux stereo image after having been respectively “retuned” in pitch by the process of synchronizing the video tracks to each other and to the music.

The piece exists as a DVD film and has been presented both as a video installation and in a live version as part of Carnegie Hall's 2007 festival “Berlin in Lights”. The artists envision a new installation version in the form of a rotating projection, where the rate of rotation is controlled by computer to exactly match the camera panning motion. The resulting effect would be a moving frame revealing a seemingly static filmed landscape.

CREDITS:

Video / Direction / Editing: Peter Sabat

Music Composition / Performance / Field Recording: Marc Sabat