

Exquisite Chords

“Throw a bright tone out the window and send it around the world. Wait until it returns through the door backwards – enriched by all the tones it has encountered on its path. Then let this tone knock you off your feet.”

As early as in the year of 1975 the Austrian artist Gerhard Rühm wrote about the global journey of music, one year before the first Apple computer was released on the market, and fifteen years before the internet was opened for commercial use. Nowadays, the world is connected within a big network of peers which sends music around the globe every day. But what can we expect if every recipient becomes an activist and influences the sound of the tone by adding another tone? Exquisite Chords is looking for an answer.

The creation of an alternative network for an alternative production process – that is the bottom line of *Exquisite Chords* - a networking project dealing with music as a collaborative art form in an intercultural context. The idea of the project is to produce one song with different musicians influenced by different cultural and musical backgrounds playing different instruments. The band consists of members that never have met before and integrates them within a musical network that is connected via computers and communicates per email. The intermediated creation of art follows the method of Exquisite Corpse. A sampled contrabass loop (courtesy of John Zorn) is the fundament that is shared and enhanced by every participant. Every musician can chose his personal way of creative fulfilment. Adding an instrument, voice or noise – played or sampled – acting or reacting - the main intention is to create an unregulated production process without directives. One step influences the next one. The culmination of musical steps gives the song the character of an intercultural open source-production. The track is a result of an interaction process between the individuals themselves – on a musical and perhaps on a social level – as well as between the individuals and the technological instrument of the computer (email, ftp, audio workstation). The intermediated procedure was influenced by Fluxus, the way of contacting the participants occurred in the traditional way of Mail-Art – sending an invitation including the sample to receive the developed artwork – just in a virtual post circuit. Therefore Exquisite Chords can be considered as E-m@il-@rt. The artists interact as members of a band that operates in a spatially divided but collective network aiming for a cooperative and transformative production process of a musical artwork that unites different cultural references. The project is still in progress.

At the time of authoring this assignment the following musicians confirmed their participation in Exquisite Chords:

- ♪ Babu Chaudhary (India)
- ♪ Martins Smirno (Letvia)
- ♪ Philip Ganev (Austria/GB)
- ♪ Georg Kalec (Austria/Slowenia)
- ♪ Stefan Klampfer (Austria)
- ♪ Anna Lund (Denmark)
- ♪ Alexander Maierhofer (Austria/Irak)
- ♪ Matthias Stricker (Germany)

