

# Sound Studies and Sonic Arts

## Summer Term 2018

**Module** Focus Lecture

**Course Title** Art and nature. Aspects of a fundamental relationship

**Course Times and Location** Tuesdays + Wednesdays / 12-2 p.m. / LIE 314

**Instructors** [Prof. Dr. Sabine Sanio](#)

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**Office Hours and Location** upon request, LIE 310

## Course Description

Since the historical Avant-garde movement of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, efforts to reconcile art and real life are a fundamental endeavor of the arts. This has given rise to a difficult decision artist now face. On the one hand galleries, museums and concert halls are still important places for the presentation of an artist's work, while striving for recognition, but on the other hand, these places conjure up the image of the ivory tower of the arts. To elude this conflict, many artists today present their work in public space, strive to connect with daily life or every so often, take excursions into nature to present their art in uncommon surroundings.

This newfound approach is not only proof for a fundamental change within the relationship of art and nature, but also shows the basic importance of it for the self-image of the arts. In hindsight one can find various forms of this relation: for a longtime the arts see it as their calling to emulate nature, later to disassociate with it and as an emphasis upon this, a focus on its own artificiality arises. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the (re-)discovery of nature, its depiction gains central artistic attention.

While landscape paintings portray the beauty of nature, they also constitute the budding of an early ecological awareness. Against the background of this long tradition with its many facets, this lecture will introduce current, characteristic positions of the relation between art and nature. We will approach the question of this relationship from the perspective of the auditory: Hearing (and the "nature" of it) as a form of experiencing reality, may that be art or nature, will be a discussion point, as well as the nature of sounds and the idea of natural sound or harmonic series. New strategies and concepts for the discovery, involvement and re-approach to nature from the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century, such as Land Art, Soundscape or site specific (sound) art, will be portrayed.

Finally, with the question about the relation of artificiality and reality, a renown but current variation of the relationship between art and nature will be discussed: How and in which way can the arts, and especially music and sonic arts, contribute to human understanding and communicating about our own nature, culture and artificiality.

## Exam / Credit Points

2CP (not graded): regular attendance

## Module

2CP (not graded): Theory, Free Focus

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## Schedule

April 24	Introduction. Art and nature – about thinking in opposites and its limits
April 25	Art, nature and aesthetics 1: theoretical basics
May 2	Art, nature and aesthetics 2: historic perspectives
May 15	The nature of hearing, harmonic series, timbre: Music, physics, acoustics
May 16	Art, nature, technology 1: musical instruments and sound objects
May 22	Art, nature, technology 2: provocation, performance, trance
May 23	Sonic Arts and nature 1: utopian spaces or old traditions?
June 12	Sonic Arts and nature 2: artificial paradise
June 13	The concert hall as a white cube as an artificial space
June 19	Soundscape, field recordings: constructs of modern sound-worlds/-environments
June 20	Land Art, site specificity: the rediscovery of nature?
July 3	Listening to Artificial Intelligence
July 4	Sounds in a Virtual Reality