

Sound and Vision **David Cunningham and Yukio Fujimoto**

This is an exhibition focused on the nature of human perception. The circumscription of our aural and visual experience – simply, through the way our bodies work – is played on by David Cunningham (b. Ireland, 1954) and Yukio Fujimoto (b. Nagoya 1950) in order to achieve compelling artistic outcomes. They make the most of the truism that we only hear what we can hear, and see what we can see.

This is the first time Cunningham and Fujimoto, both equally acclaimed and influential internationally, have exhibited together. Each has been very aware (and admiring) of the other's work, having arrived at similar aesthetic propositions, eschewing illusionistic gestures – “no metaphor “ - placing emphasis on what happens in real time whilst acknowledging that all our experience, artistic and otherwise, it is determined essentially by the nature of our sensory organs and nervous systems.

For this exhibition, Cunningham has made a new work based on his concept of “The Listening Room”. A manifestation of his continued enquiry into the relationship between sound, audience and environment, it involves a sound system that allows the resonant frequencies and imperceptible sounds of the gallery space to become audible, a process modulated by very slight acoustic changes as people move around the room, from ambient sound, from humidity, from anything that causes air to move. Thus the presence of the spectator integrates the object of the work with its subject.

Cunningham explains that his work “could be considered to be a sculpture in the sense that there is a consistent structure which is moderated by conditions of the space, just like a sculpture catching different patterns of light at different times of day or in differing locations.” Likewise, Fujimoto makes an analogy with the visual arts: “I always approach my work as though it were a painting”. Taking the entire gallery space as a support medium, he presents instances of sound and matter – each complete within itself and also as a group – in order to experiment with the way they impinge on our senses.

Fujimoto is concerned especially with “point of view”, as it applies equally to our experience of sound and visual phenomena. The location and movement of the viewer (or listener) with respect to the work he presents is key to both the experience and understanding of it. Through assorted found objects (e.g. clock mechanisms, lenses, keyboards and stereoscopes) and kinetic assemblages, for his “Philosophical Toys”, amongst other things, Fujimoto takes us on a voyage of discovery into what we usually take for granted - namely our ways of being in the world.

While reflecting on the principles that inform his work, Cunningham puts forward the idea that “doors should always be open, or opened for you”. He could be speaking for both artists in this exhibition.

Jonathan Watkins