

Gestures and their outcome

Pencils are rushing over a paper: moving back and forward again, forming fine lines.



At the first glance it looks to me like a small child making a big scribble. But when getting more into the whole scenery there is more. This work has system.

There is a man standing in the middle of a big hall surrounded by people making photos...maybe a performance. His gestures look to me, as if he is trying to sharpen a pencil.

The hands on the paper follow the man's move, using the same direction and the same energy.

It is about the US artist Morgan O'Hara making a "live transmission". She is sitting in front of the paper having pencils in each hand and observing the movements of that man's hands and translating them onto the paper.

With Gene Carl on synthesizer Kentler International Drawing Space Red Hook, Brooklyn, 1998

10 years ago Morgan O'Hara developed the concept of "live transmission" at which she observes the gestures of people at their daily activities. Over the years she discovers also an interest especially on "live transmissions" of musicians.

Morgan O'Hara works in her drawings with variations of line width and absorbancy to make the energy of the movements visible.

That procedural method makes it also possible for the viewer to understand more or less her actions during the performance and the drawing later. You have to see it to understand.



Movement of the hands of pianist Martha Argerich

while performing the first movement allegro con brio of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4, Carnegie Hall, New York City 28 October 2001

Morgan O'Hara's action reminds me of the German artist Ulrike Rosenbach whereas the whole concept of O'Hara's live transmissions is more close to John Cage.

It is something between performance, conceptual art, drawing and documentation. I would agree with all of these.

The outcome are big installations and wall paintings based on the drawings she made during her live transmission.



Aomori Contemporary Art Center Aomori, Japan
wall drawing: hand movement of 3 Taiko drummers performing
hanging wooden form based on a Live Transmission:
drawing of movement of Anthony Braxton while conducting his Tri-Centric Orchestra

www.morganohara.com