

VLF Recordings and Sound Installation Exhibit in Chile

Fernando Godoy

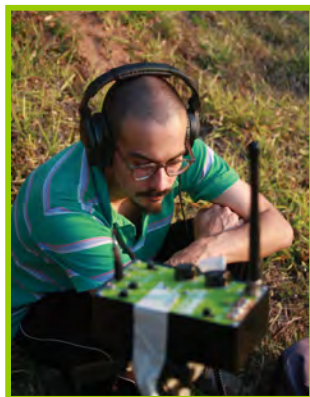
Field recording is a practice born in the decade of the 1970s that is being developed nowadays within the field of sound art. This practice consists in investigating and recording the natural or cultural environment, from an acoustic perspective and mainly for artistic purposes. Thus, every territory can be known by listening to its special qualities and situations that befall it.

Personally I consider it interesting when this exploration is expressed in levels beyond what is ordinarily perceptible, i.e. not only investigate the sound that is transmitted through the air, but also the sound traveling through different media, such as water or within bodies/objects or through electromagnetic means of propagation. It is here that the study of natural radio emissions can be of interest from an artistic perspective and the observation and recording of such emissions can perfectly be part of a creative process.

During December of 2012, along with Peter Kutin and Flo Kindlinger (both from Austria), we drove across the Atacama Desert. Our objective was to investigate and record the natural landscape and the traces of abandonment in the desert, always from a sound perspective. The impromptu tour route took us to diverse places and allowed us to map a part of the Chilean coast, desert, and plateau. During the trip I was able to conduct VLF observations, taking advantage of the low electromagnetic pollution conditions of the desert, and among those I found particularly interesting the ones made at 4273 meters of altitude in a place called Lagunas Altiplánicas (Highland Lakes), where the intensity of the reception of emissions was especially loud and clear. It is possible to listen to this observation at: <http://audiomapa.org/?loc=395>.

This project resulted in the composition of a radio piece for German public radio WDR, and also a sound installation exhibited during 2013 in three Chilean cities: Antofagasta, Valparaíso and Concepción. Both works used only sounds recorded during the trip, which included ambient, hydrophonic, contact, and VLF recordings. The installation was developed so that the public could explore, via headphones, the sounds of the journey on a map drawn with wires.

All of the recordings of the project can be heard and downloaded, under Creative Commons license, from the audiomapa.org platform, a project started in 2012 that seeks to explore and share soundscapes in a collaborative manner. This platform, within its functionalities, allows selective auditions by categories, one of which is labeled as electromagnetic and where you can listen to various VLF observations made in Chile. Visit: <http://audiomapa.org/>

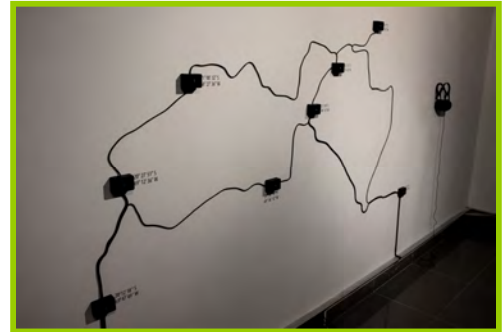


About Fernando Godoy

Fernando Godoy is a musician and sound artist from Chile. His work uses diverse means and media to investigate acoustic phenomena in fields such as the soundscape, the link between art and technology, auditory phenomena, and its relationship with territory and the perception of time. His practices include live performance, installation web projects, composition, and the development of DIY electronics. Since 2012 Godoy has maintained the project [Audiomapa.org](http://audiomapa.org), a platform dedicated to explore and share field recordings. In addition he directs Tsunami International Sound Art Festival in Valparaíso, Chile, a platform for the dissemination and development of contemporary sound practices. Visit: www.Tsunami.cl



VLF observations at Lagunas Altiplánicas



Interactive sound installation exhibited in Chile