Electronic music

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Typical music

- Richard Teitelbaum, moog synthesiser » listen
  - a new instrument: audible mechanics of playing
  - thick expression, etc.
- Not electronic music
A stipulation

- Electronic music is an artefact consisting of sound produced by a machine which provides the logic in the result.
Sounds and their causes
A phenomenological characteristic

- We hear the causes of the sounds—normally
- The sound of water running from a tap
  - The **sight** of water running from a tap
  - **suitably prompts** us to hear the sound
  - Not: it explains what we hear
we hear the world like we see the world

likewise, we hear musicians in the music

except in electronic music: here we do not hear the individual musicians
“Art is what is in the concert hall”
Procedural (nominal)

“A work of art in the classificatory sense is (1) an artifact (2) upon which some person or persons acting on behalf of a certain social institution (the Artworld) have conferred the status of candidate for appreciation.”
  • Institutional definition — George Dickie (1973, 25)

It does not say what a work of art should be good in
  • Wise
    • no endless debates
  • But also disappointing
    • directors of concert halls can be mistaken
Historical Definition

1. Initial step: Objects of the Ur-arts are artworks at t0 (and thereafter)

2. Recursive step: If X is an artwork prior to t, then Y is an artwork at t if it is true at t that some person or persons, having the appropriate proprietary right over Y, nonpassingly intends (or intended) Y for regard in any way (or ways) in which X is or was correctly (or standardly) regarded

In lay terms . . .

- Something is a work of art if it is clear how it is to be appreciated—because this is like how previously works were appreciated; correctly and meant like this by someone who would be in charge of this

- But: absolute new art?
“how it is to be appreciated” depends on the procedure—for instance: paint on a canvas

But what makes it artistic?—the fact that masterpieces were made in it

The effect of this?—That the audience allows this procedure to require an artistic attitude
Art practice

- Art is a practice — three aspects which feed-back into each other

1. rules/habits of conduct: artistic attitude: opening up to artistic appreciation; leading hopefully to rewarding experience
2. artists creating objects and events allowing the above (intentions)
3. Art works: the objects and events are such that the audience links them to the intentions of the artists and the appreciative experience
1. X is a work of art if and only if it properly instantiates an established artistic procedure.

2. An ordered set of phenomenological specifications concerning the manipulation of material is a procedure if and only if it allows for more than one proper instantiation.

3. A procedure is artistic if and only if it has allowed for one or more instantiations with acclaimed high artistic value.

4. To establish a work’s artistic merit the audience must take up an artistic attitude.

▶ ... a car crash and performance art
Marina Abramowicz, *Rhythm 5*
Electronic music

1. Procedure:
   • Have computerlike sound-generator produce sounds
     • it is not music in the traditional sense of having the audience listen to sounds wherein the musician is audibly present
     • Has audience wonder about the intentional structure

2. Artistically meritorious examples?
   • ?
How to promote electronic music

- suggest the intentional structure as that of an artificial intelligence: it is an art of the computer (not of humans)
- Don’t use electronic music to go against the standard concept of art
  - that mistake has been made before: formalism’s “significant form” as the essence of art
- ...but expand it
- remove audible human input: aesthetics, stylistics, melodies, etc. — celebrate its inhumane logic