VIRGINIE VIEL

COMPOSER, PhD — PHOTOGRAPHER

PRESS KIT

Dr Virginie Viel is a composer of electroacoustic music and immersive sound installations, and a photographer, currently based in Bordeaux. Her work invites the listener and the viewer into a world somewhere between the known and the unknown, where memories, mental projections, symbols and physical sensations meet.

Wandering and a contemplative attention to landscape are at the root of both her photography and her music. In her acousmatic works, from stereo to multichannel, she designs immersive sound spaces and imagines how the listener moves through them over time.

Her research explores the relationship between bodily perception and the sensory modalities (sight, hearing, touch, movement), and the ways in which sound can evoke them. At its heart lies the notion of qualia: the felt quality of a perception as it is lived from within — the grain of a texture, the sense of a distance, the impetus of a movement. The term goes back to Charles Sanders Peirce (quale, 1866) and was given its modern sense by the philosopher C. I. Lewis in Mind and the World Order (1929). In her music, qualia become compositional material: through the morphology and spatialisation of sound, she seeks to convey qualia of motion, distance, substance and energy, so that listening becomes a bodily, almost tactile experience.

OPEN TO COLLABORATIONS

Spatial and immersive sound for concerts, festivals, exhibitions, cultural institutions and luxury houses.

PARIS LONDON WORLDWIDE

CONTACT

virginieviel.com

SELECTED WORKS

I belong to the sea

ACOUSMATIC · STEREO · ORIGINALLY FOR 8 LOUDSPEAKERS · 11:00

Composed at the Music, Technology and Innovation Research Centre, De Montfort University, Leicester (UK), with the support of the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, Administration générale de la Culture, Service de la Musique.

Nyx — Νύξ

ACOUSMATIC · STEREO · 10:34

Uni-vers(e)

ACOUSMATIC · STEREO · ORIGINALLY FOR A DOME OF 16 LOUDSPEAKERS · 24-CHANNEL VERSION · 10:12

Composed in the 32-channel multichannel studio of the Université de Montréal, for a dome of sixteen loudspeakers.

An Ocean on the Moon

ACOUSMATIC · 16 CHANNELS · 10:21

Partly composed at the Ionian University, Corfu (GR), and completed at the Music, Technology and Innovation Research Centre (MTI), De Montfort University, Leicester (UK). World premiere at the Audiovisual Arts Festival, Megaron, Athens.

The Stones can speak

ACOUSMATIC · STEREO

Where are you?

SOUND INSTALLATION · 8 CHANNELS · OPEN FORM · CYCLE OF 16 MIN

Composed at the Music, Technology and Innovation Research Centre (MTI), De Montfort University, Leicester (UK). World premiere in the MTI concert series, Leicester.

Danse macabre

ACOUSMATIC · STEREO · 8:37

Liberté chérie

ACOUSMATIC · STEREO

World premiere in Brussels. Selected by competition for Acousmatic Transcendence (Chatham, UK), the Tilde festival (Melbourne, AU) and an exhibition at The Engine Room gallery (London, UK); also performed at the Conservatorio Giovanni Battista Martini, Bologna (IT).

Nuage Noir

ACOUSMATIC · STEREO

Composed with a commission from the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, Administration générale de la Culture.

La SMN, née il y a peu, elle respire encore aujourd'hui…

SOUND INSTALLATION · OCTOPHONY · 8 CHANNELS

Sound installation in octophony: eight loudspeakers in a ring around the audience.

SOUND INSTALLATIONS & EXHIBITIONS

14.06.2017	Where are you? WORLD PREMIERE Sound installation, 8 channels — MTI concert series, Leicester (UK)
05–06.2015	Liberté chérie Exhibition, The Engine Room gallery, selected by competition, London (UK)
02.2015	Liberté chérie Exhibition, Tilde festival, selected by competition, Melbourne (AU)
11.2012	La SMN, née il y a peu, elle respire encore aujourd'hui Sound installation, 8 channels — exhibition "Voyez-vous", Transat Vidéo, Colombelles (FR)
01–02.2011	Labo presents Virginie Viel Audiovisual installation, video and photography — Recyclart, Brussels (BE)

SELECTED PERFORMANCES

18.12.2022	The Stones can speak Silence Festival Internazionale di Musica Acusmatica, Bari (IT)
03.10.2021	The Stones can speak Autumn Waves, Project(ion) Room, Brussels (BE)
Summer 2021	Uni-vers(e) GuteLjaud Karte: The Churches 2021, Lokrume Church, Visby (SE)
09.05.2019	The Stones can speak Polytechno Akousmata 2.0, Corfu (GR)
25.01.2019	The Stones can speak Audior Acousmonium, La Fabbrica del Vapore, Milan (IT)
21.06.2017	Uni-vers(e) Concert curated by John Young, Influx / M&R, Brussels (BE)
21.05.2017	An Ocean on the Moon WORLD PREMIERE Audiovisual Arts Festival, Megaron, Athens (GR)
16.06.2016	Nyx "Spectral Journeys...", curated by John Young — New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival, New York (US)
11.12.2015	Nyx Finalist, Musica Nova competition, Prague (CZ)
23.11.2015	I belong to the sea Café OTO, London (UK)
07.11.2015	Nyx Evi Music 2015 festival, selected by competition, Saarbrücken (DE)
25.10.2015	Nyx WORLD PREMIERE Festival L'Espace du Son, Brussels (BE)
23.10.2015	I belong to the sea Selected for the MUSLAB multichannel concert, Mexico (MX)
22.04.2015	Nuage Noir SIME festival, selected by competition, Lille (FR)

COMMISSIONS

2014	Nuage Noir Laureate — composition commission, Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles (BE)

RESIDENCIES

07–08.2018	**Vauxhall, Brussels (BE)** Collective residency with the Séneçon collective
09.2017	**Visby International Centre for Composers (SE)** Invited by Sten Melin — composition of The Stones can speak
09.2016 – 01.2017	**Faculty of Music, Ionian University, Corfu (GR)** Invited by Theodoros Lotis — composition of An Ocean on the Moon
04–07.2016	**Faculty of Music, Université de Montréal (CA)** Invited by Robert Normandeau — composition of Uni-vers(e), 24 channels
06–07.2014	**Faculty of Music, University of Huddersfield (UK)** Invited by Pierre Alexandre Tremblay — collective residency with the Séneçon collective
07.2013	**Composition residency (UK)** Invited by the Alcôme collective — composition of Mercure
2011 – 2012	**Voyez-vous project, Colombelles (FR)** Invited by Transat Vidéo and the city of Colombelles — a year-long project built on interviews with former workers of the metallurgical plant demolished in the 1990s

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

Multi-form visualization: a method to compose acousmatic music. In *Embodied Gestures*, ed. Enrique Tomás, Thomas Gorbach, Hilda Tellioğlu, Martin Kaltenbrunner. TU Wien Academic Press, 2022, pp. 49–62. Open access.

doi.org/10.34727/2022/isbn.978-3-85448-047-1_6

Multiform visualisation: an approach to acousmatic composition. PhD thesis, De Montfort University, Leicester (UK), 2019 — Music, Technology and Innovation Research Centre. Supervised by John Young and Pete Batchelor.

RELEASES

15.10.2018	**Awakenings** The Stones can speak — Obs, Modern Electroacoustics, Moscow (RU)
30.11.2017	**Contemporanea Acusmatica** An Ocean on the Moon — Taukay Edizioni Musicali, Udine (IT)
03.2017	**Pearl** Solo album — acousmatic pieces composed between 2014 and 2016. Obs, Modern Electroacoustics, Moscow (RU)
09.09.2016	**#Singularities01** Nyx — Singularities, Paris (FR)

PERFORMED IN

United Kingdom · Belgium · France · Italy · Greece · Germany · Sweden · Czech Republic · United States · Mexico · Argentina · Australia · Japan