Repeat-Revolution: Forms of Partaker Agency in the Sound Works of Cage, Holmqvist and Bruys

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Abstract

The works of composer John Cage and sound artist Nathalie Bruys will be coupled to my notion of partaker agency. The participatory aspects will be examined via Susanne Langer and Karen Barad helping to understand that sound has a vital form with its own agency. Supporting Cage’s interest in sound as music, I will elaborate on the Buddhist kōan and Kototama chants. The tension between repetition regarded as similitude or difference, will be further examined via the works of Karl Holmqvist and Peter Handke. Arriving at the conclusion, via Jacques Derrida, that repetition might serve as a double mirror, opening up a way out of the realm of logic.

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