



Swarm sound installation is composed by 250 small speakers, each one reproducing the sound of a flying bee. Suspended in the exhibition space, those sonic devices offer us several listening experiences ranging from the group to the individual. The visitor is invited to approach those small beings and become part of the swarm, in an immersive sonic experience with the bees.

In the pre-production stage, we built a recording studio specifically designed to gather the buzzing of the bees while they were foraging inside. It was a collaborative process with 250 bees of the colony raised by Dominique Hardouin.

The studio helped us materialize the idea of “separating the multitude”, allowing us to perceive the subtleties of each flight. After breaking down the swarm, building the sound installation was the next step in order to recompose it with a multitude of suspended speakers.

It’s then possible to listen to those voices as many individual testimonies by these workers that tend to get unnoticed. We listen to their singing, their screaming or their chatting, in the way of an aerial choir. Once in the heart of the installation, the listener can discover near each device the vibrations emitted by one of the bees and become aware of the complexity of a swarm.

Videos documenting the installation:

Espace Jeanne Barret, Marseille

Domaine de Kerguéhennec, Bretagne

vimeo.com/felixblume/essaim

vimeo.com/felixblume/swarm



A bee foraging inside the recording studio (Var, France, 2021)

EXHIBITIONS:

Jeanne Barret (Marseille, Fr, 2021)
Domaine de Kerguéhennec (Vannes, Fr, 2021)
Festival Maintenant (Rennes, Fr, 2021)
Wilde Westen (Kortrijk, Be, 2021)
Musée des Tapisseries (Aix-en-Provence, Fr, 2022)
Hear Here (Leuven, Be, 2022)
Musée Réattu (Arles, Fr, 2022)
Campo Base Festival (Domodossola, It, 2022)
Sonic Acts (Amsterdam, NI, 2022)
Donau Festival (Krems, Au, 2023)
Sonic Protest (Paris, Fr, 2023)



A bee entering the recording studio (Var, France, 2021)

PRESS: [Point Contemporain](#) (French), [Anonymal TV](#) (French), [We Make Money Not Art](#) (English), [Radio Canal B Rennes](#) (French), [Meeting with Félix Blume during Maintenant festival at Rennes](#) (French), [Swarm presented in Kortrijk during the exhibition Sound Art in Public Spaces](#) (English)



Dominique Hardouin and Félix Blume listening to the bees (Var, France, 2021)



Domaine de Kerguéhennec (Vannes, France, 2021)

PAST EXHIBITIONS



Jeanne Barret (Marseille, Fr, 2021)



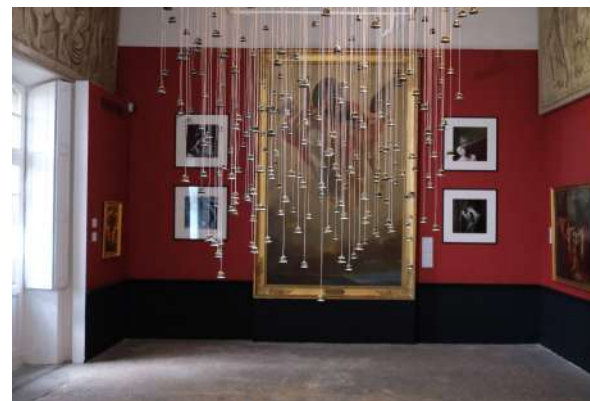
Wilde Westen (Kortrijk, Be, 2021)



Domaine de Kerguéhennec (Vannes, Fr, 2021)



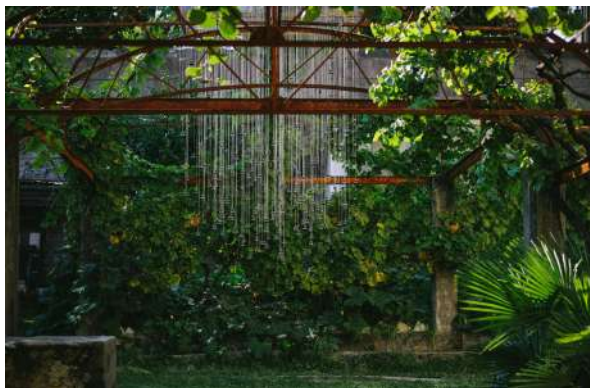
Festival Maintenant (Rennes, Fr, 2021)



Musée Réattu (Arles, Fr, 2022)



Festival Hear Here (Leuven, Be, 2022)



Campo Base Festival (Domodossola, It, 2022)



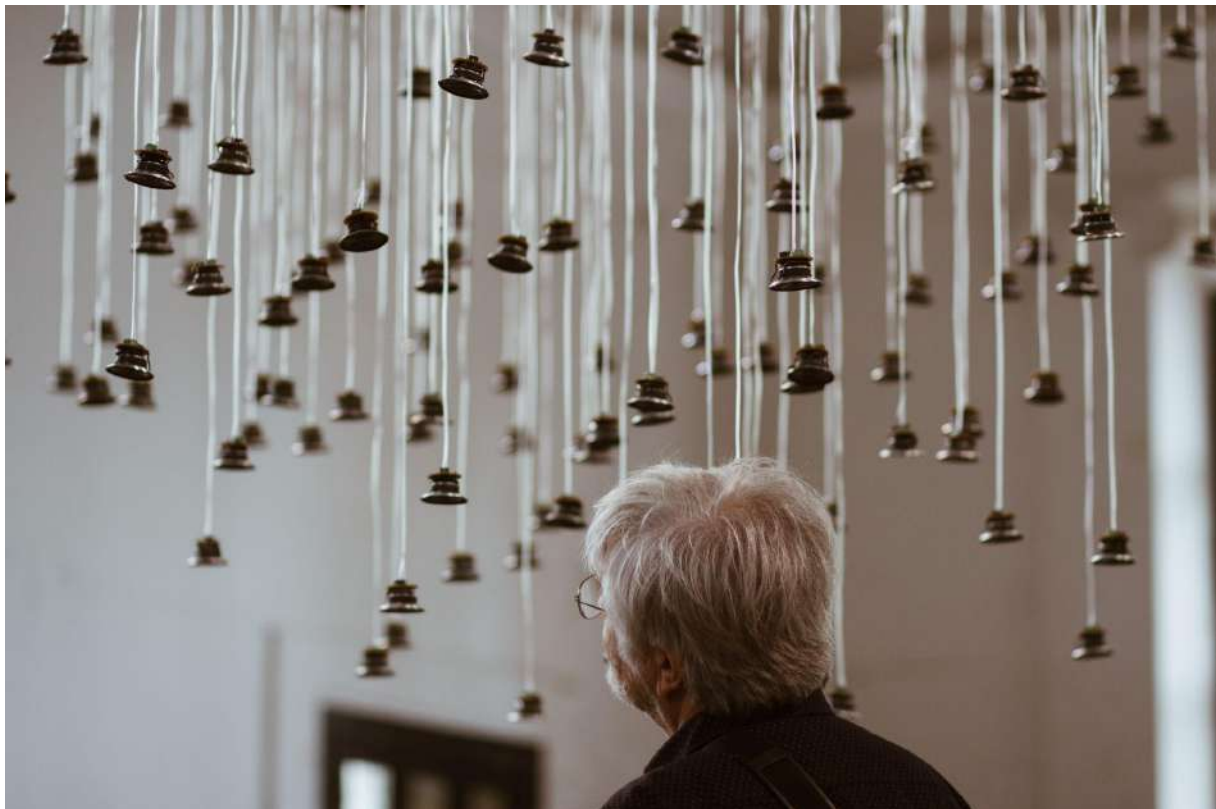
Biennale une 5ème Saison (Aix en Provence, Fr, 2022)

TECHNICAL SUMMARY

In order to ensure an optimal operation and display of the installation, the **exhibition space** should be at least 4m high. The **250 sonic devices** composing the installation are hung close to the ceiling using a **double metalgrid** built-in a **wooden frame**. The **cables** used to hang the sonic devices are hooked to the grid using **alligator clips** and the sonic devices are screwed to it. The length of each cable and the dimensions of the grid depend on the size of the space.



Building of the sonic devices (Marseille, 2021)



Hear Here (Leuven, Be, 2022)



Sonic Acts, W139, (Amsterdam, NL, 2022)



Musée Réattu (Arles, Fr, 2022)



Campo Base Festival (Domodossola, It, 2022)



Domaine de Kerguéhennec (Vannes, France, 2021)



Domaine de Kerguéhennec (Vannes, France, 2021)

CREDITS

Production: [D.D.A Contemporary Art](#) (Constance Juliette Meffre)

Co-production: M2F Créations / Lab Gamerz & Domaine de Kerguéhennec

Participation of DICRéAM (CNC)

Collaboration with beekeeper Dominique Hardouin and 250 bees

Design and conception of the recording studio and the sonic devices: Grégoire Lauvin

Assistant: Arthur Thomas

Assistant for the installation: Louis-Marie Ropars

Post-Production Assistants: César González & Alejandro Díaz

Many thanks to Luce Moreau, Paul Destieu, Sara Lana, Cleo Verstrepen, Andres Blume, Marie-Christine Cabanas, Guillaume Stagnaro, Thomas Hardouin, Lucas Compagnoni, Louis-Marie Ropars, Eric Mezan & Yoav Yaron.

Pictures: Yoav Yaron, Constance Juliette Meffre, Luce Moreau, Arthur Thomas & Félix Blume.



Dominique, Arthur and Félix during the recordings of the bees (Var, France, 2021)

CONTACT: Félix Blume | +33 637360074 | +52 1 5526941601 | felix.blume@gmail.com