

Statement:

For fifteen years, I have created sound pieces responding to the context of specific buildings. Acoustic compositions result from cooperation with individuals, groups and communities: students, workers, activists. In recent years my focus has been on vocal performances in public spaces that address social anger, activism and the sense of powerlessness.¹

The proposed project draws from my profound conviction that art is never detached from economic and social reality – which needs to embrace not only the context of art making, but also its presentation – and that art still possesses the power to design and build alternative worlds, autonomous zones and communities.

Proposal:

Tesla coil in Faraday cage designed by Andrzej Wasilewski
video sample from our research: <https://vimeo.com/188226037>

Tender Destruction;**Concert for a Tesla coil and the Frieze Art Fair audience**

I want to offer the Frieze Art Fair audience a beautiful way to channel their anger, frustration, sense of powerlessness – or otherwise, to let their empowerment shine.

For the Frieze Art Fair, I propose a performance with a Tesla coil.

The installation will be available to the public whose recorded activities will modify the produced sound.

I want to achieve a high-voltage cathartic experience that will close the chapter of defensiveness, protest and helplessness and carve out a space for new bold visions.

Themes/Questions:

- Can we gather all our anger and need of change and transform them into new energy? Abandon our defensive positions and become visionaries? Can we change anger into music with a stunning and cathartic force?
- For years, we have been protesting, demonstrating and trying to fix the crumbling system. (In Europe) art and NGOs took over the role of caring for the society, thus removing this burden from the shoulders of politicians and corporations. What will happen when we – activists and artists – refuse to care for the common good, sense of community, subjectivity, beauty? What if we stop trying to fix the system? Let it finally fall.
- Let's work through tension and aggression with a cathartic visual experience. The energy invested in expressing the need for profound changes cannot be wasted.

Nikola Tesla is an excellent reference as a visionary and artist from the era when the future still held an unlimited potential.

How does the Tesla coil work? Information enters the installation through optical fibre, the installation generates high-voltage electric discharges (impressive lightnings) while simultaneously operating as a powerful speaker.

We believe that such a compelling and boisterous installation is ideally suited to express both the anger and the positive energy of the crowd.



Singer Anna Clementi during the recording session for Zorka Wollny

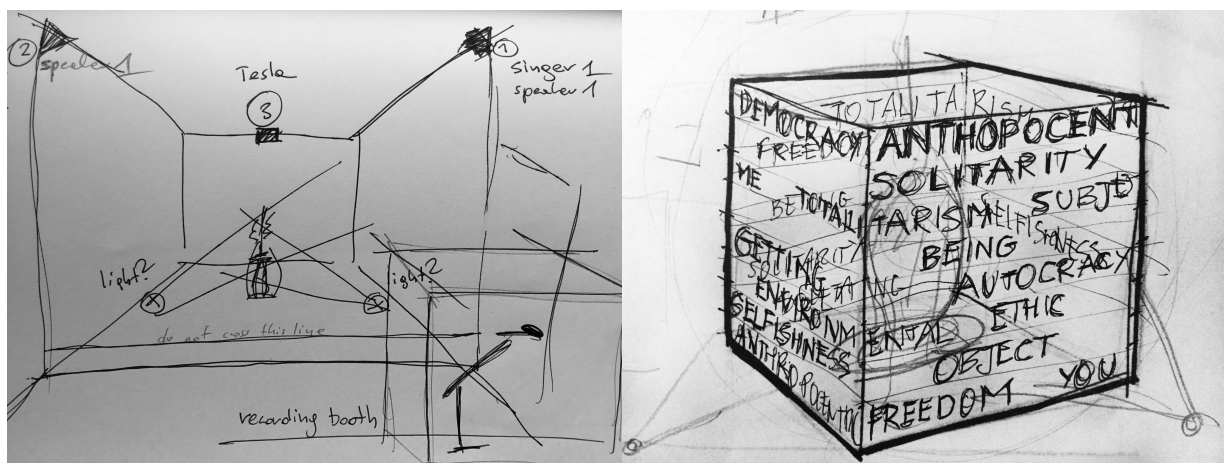
video sample from this session: <https://vimeo.com/260721534>

The work will be created in collaboration with:

- volunteer participants of my workshops on working with vocal and channeling aggression into singing – their voices will lay at the foundation of the installation presented at Frieze.
- Frieze Art Fair audience who will be offered a microphone and a possibility to alter the sound of the installation by adding their voices: short address, singing, scream, visionary speech or sounds of destroying an object they brought.
- Two female singers who will demonstrate the full potential of the installation each evening at Frieze.
- Artist Andrzej Wasilewski, with whom we have been experimenting with Tesla's invention for a year.

Events:

- Evening performances/concerts for two female singers and a Tesla coil.
- Working with voice and aggression channeling workshop (Vox populi).
- Lecture about the sound aspect of social protests and musical dimension of revolution (collaboration – Burak Üzümkesci, Faculty of Philosophy of Freie Universität Berlin).
- “Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow”.² Workshop on mindful and tender breaking with the past. (Something must break – let's break something.)



Plan of the installation. Faraday cage sketch. Tesla with vocal: <https://vimeo.com/275823517>

Research and development:

- Continuation of research on social anger from the perspective of sound (I am currently analysing sound and music accompanying public protests in Turkey, Germany and Poland), research on the physical potential of vocals.
- Developing the initial musical composition for a Tesla coil. Recording. Working with participants – week-long open voice workshops, sound recording. Building a musical composition for multiple voices / singing, screaming, oration, abstract sounds. Testing the musical potential of falling and breaking objects.

- Building an installation comprising a Tesla coil and a soundsystem, building a basic sound installation and live recording system to add new layers.



Song of Resistance – concert in Istanbul 2015, in collaboration with students-activists - still frame.

The sounds of Gezi Park – compilation of sounds, Burak Üzümkesci <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E10MjVz6gdo>

Illustrations:

1. Image of a Tesla coil in a cage designed by Andrzej Wasilewski.
2. Example of working with voice.
3. General layout. Video showcasing the installation's potential.
4. Examples from research on the role of sound in resistance movement.
5. Photos and fragments of previous works.

Draft budget:

- Tesla coil – transport, spare parts, building a Faraday cage (also for recording booth), infrastructure, installation maintenance:
- Recording, sound engineering, mixing&mastering, software development for adding live sound to the existing composition:
- Rental of a good sound system (a decent stage sound system is enough):
- OSH certificates appropriate for the London show: (we have all certificates needed in Poland and Germany)
- Costs of collaborators' travel, accommodation and fees.

1. For example, “Song at Work” - made with the shipyard workers (Gdańsk 2010) or “Oratorio for the Orchestra and Warsaw Citizens' Choir” made in collaboration with over 100 members of the non-government organizations and the philharmonic orchestra (Warsaw 2011). “Composition for Factory” made in the abandoned Malzfabrik in Berlin (2014), „Song of Resistance” - a short sound demonstration made with Turkish students in Istanbul (2015), „Impossible Opera” (Oldenburg 2017), „Dissent” (Berlin 2018)

2 „Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow/ Creeps in this petty pace from day to day/To the last syllable of recorded time.”
Macbeth (Act 5, Scene 5)