

*Please spend some time with the artworks included in the presentation.
Are they dealing with what you would consider media art strategies?*

I don't really know what exactly I consider as media art strategies right now, but most of the works from the presentation try to open up the possibilities of art in our society in a certain way. They pan away from museal structures, sculptures, or art forms of the 20. Century in general. A standpoint where art no longer must stand for anything or has to be interpreted – more a research on society and humanity.

Which one you like most?

It is difficult to say that I like one work the most – more I like single works for particular reasons. For the political point of view, I quite like Julian Olivers Men in Grey, but on the other side it feels a little bit old 10 years later. James Turrell work awakes impressive feelings as I have seen his rooms before by myself. The technical perfection, poetically and feeling is difficult to describe. The Rain Room from Random international I like for its simplicity (idea wise, not technical), Anthony Gormleys Ted talk on his work, on the other hand, is remarkably interesting from a philosophical perspective. I also have to mention David Bowens Tele-present water, because it comes closest to the direction I want to work in this semester - the small motors, machines, the waves - easy for everyone to understand, but still complex if you want to think about it at a deeper level.

What is missing?

A few of the artists I thought missing, I already saw in parts of the other presentations. But I think a lot could be added. Nevertheless it's difficult to draw boundaries as we live in a time where most artists work quite naturally with any media and new "strategies", from machines, sounds, found footage to the Internet, without understanding themselves as media artists. Also, the presentation focuses mainly on new strategies in new forms and new mediums, rather than new strategies in existing art-forms. One could of course extend the presentation historically (starting with Duchamp, Jean Tinguely up to Nam June Paik, whose works are in my opinion partly still very futuristic, relevant and dealing with new strategies), one could mention Anri Sala or Bjørn Melhus regarding video, one could go a little more in the direction of sound and name Carsten Nicolai or Christiane Kubisch (whereby I have little knowledge of sound)... there are a lot of things that could be seen as a different strategy or approach in (media) art. But maybe if one would extend the list with my suggestions, the concept specified by the presentation would become far too vague.

Kaffe Matthews

Sonic Bed (2005 - ongoing)



Website: https://www.kaffematthews.net/project/sonic-bed_london

Video: <https://vimeo.com/49406849>