

Carola Bauckholt - **Oh, I see.** for clarinet, cello, piano, two balloon players and video (2015/16)

Time and again I am fascinated by our brain, especially by the logic of our dreams. I have the impression that art, and music in particular, comes closest to the processes that take place in our brain.

In his book *Dreams – a Journey Into Our Inner Reality*, Stefan Klein writes: ‘Modern neuroscience ascribes the most important function to our feelings; they are the foundation for all conscious experience. [...] Emotions are among the most elemental activities of the brain. We owe it to them that, in the course of evolution, something like a consciousness of the self could develop at all. [...] We constantly try to explain feelings with events by understanding them as a reaction to what happens to us. [...] We construct an emotional reality for ourselves – and then we hold our surroundings responsible for our emotions. [...] We create a theory of the world from all these inner images, thoughts and feelings. We need them to interpret our sensory impressions. If we had no inner world, we would be unable to cope in the outside world. This inner world is a simulation.’*

So it is not simply a matter of external stimuli being processed. The brain itself independently produces images and sounds, as has meanwhile been shown in experiments with blind and deaf people. I still find it difficult to really grasp this fact.

The composition **Oh, I see.** was written as part of the project ‘Music with the Real’ by Håkon Stene. In this piece, I depict external activities like eye movements, from which the perceiving persons can draw conclusions about inner processes. Sounds provide further information. Thus the movements of a construct made of sound and images, which could remind one of a kind of composite artificial face, are only assembled into a whole within the perceiving person.

‘In the brain, everything is in motion and almost everything is connected to everything else.’ What are the causal connections? What is triggered by what? Who reflects whom?

*From Stefan Klein, *Träume – eine Reise in unsere innere Wirklichkeit* (Frankfurt: S. Fischer, 2014)

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