

Place and the artistic sense of the landscape have been traditionally dominated by the visual medium (Feld, 1996). Sound however, can offer a richer experience; a three dimensional sense of space, time and depth, or 'aural landscape' (Krause, 2013; Emmerson, 1999).

Technological advancements in spatial and interactive audio offer new potential for the soundscape composer in capturing and creating sonic environments. This research inquiry investigates the creative opportunities of these technologies within multimedia gallery spaces, for immersive and explorative audience experiences.

The research questions in this inquiry are:

What sonic tools and techniques are required to create immersive and interactive senses of place? What are the creative affordances* of location and head tracked binaural audio to the soundscape composer? What are the implications on the compositional process?

These questions will be answered via practice in creating the soundscape for 'Field Studies: Odin's Gully', an audio-visual installation by Simon Connor (sound/music) and Andrew Brooks (film/photography). The installation will utilise multi-user head tracked and location tracked spatial audio, with multiple large screen projection film. The audience can explore this immersive and imaginative audio-visual landscape and its changes over four seasons.

This research has been disseminated in art installations, screenings, paper presentations and artist talks, in order to reveal new methodologies for the soundscape composer using these emergent technologies.

As a collaborative project, the research will also address how the composer and filmmaker co-create a multimodal conceptualization of landscape. The ultimate aim of the work is to create a hyper-real experience that teeters on the edge of the real and unreal, where audiences emerge with an altered or expanded appreciation of reality and the natural environment (Norman, 1996; Westerkamp 2007).

* *By affordances I am referring to J.J Gibson's use of the term in what something offers, allows or furnishes (1979).*

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