

Christina Kubisch

ELECTRICAL WALKS NEW YORK

August 10–21, 2019

Electrical Walks is a work in progress that began in 2003. It is a public walk with special, sensitive wireless headphones which amplify the acoustic perceptibility of aboveground and underground electromagnetic fields. Built-in coils, which respond to the electromagnetic waves in our environment, transmit the sounds. The palette of these sounds—their timbre and volume—varies from site to site and from country to country. They have one thing in common: they are omnipresent, even where one would not expect them. Our perception of everyday reality changes when we listen to this hidden electromagnetic world. Nothing looks the way it sounds. And nothing sounds the way it looks.

The use of these headphones is not harmful, but please be cautious; certain sound sources, particularly security gates, can be extremely loud. Never walk through a security gate with headphones on. Be attentive to your surroundings when crossing the street.

The route indicated on the map is a only a suggestion. Feel free to explore the city as you choose.

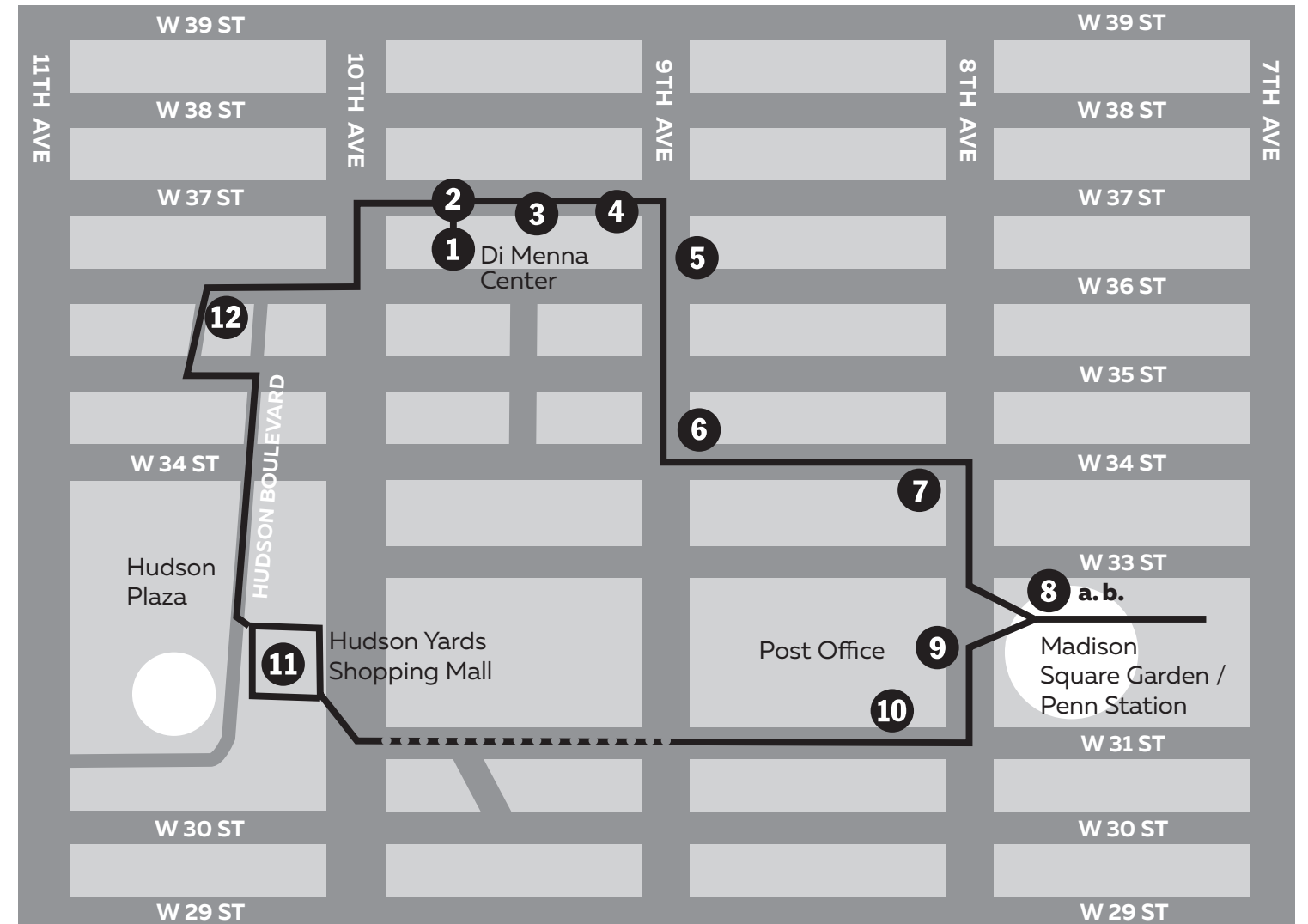
Walk slowly, stopping occasionally to turn your head. Electromagnetic fields can vary within very short distances. There is no guarantee that the sounds indicated on the map can be heard all the time.

Please turn your headphones off when not in use in order to conserve battery power, and return them promptly after your walk. Treat them carefully; they are custom made.

Electrical Walks has been presented worldwide. The walk in New York is Number 76 in the series.

TIME:SPANS
A Contemporary Music Festival

Presented by The Earle Brown Music Foundation Charitable Trust



1 DiMenna Center for Classical Music

Here you will get your headphones, a map, and instructions. The walk is free, but you will be asked to leave your credit card until you return the headphones.

2 In front of DiMenna Center

Listen to the deep underground vibrations in various positions.

3 Walk east on West 37th Street to the bridge

Listen to the variety of antenna signals from the surrounding skyscrapers.

4 Icon Garage

Enter the garage and discover the signals that detect the arrival and departure of the cars.

5 Sugar Deli Fruit Center

Stop in front of the window with the neon signs. Caution: very loud.

6 Intersection at Ninth Avenue and West 34th Street

A real thunderstorm of digital signals.

7 Walk east on West 34th Street to AMC Theater

Enter the theater and listen closely to the various light screens in the lobby.

8 Penn Station

a. Take the West 33rd Street entrance and follow the signs to the LIRR platforms. Go down to any of the tracks, 1–22, and listen to the incoming and departing trains.

b. Explore the passageway with its different signs and signals. If you get lost, don't worry: just go out the same way you came in.

9 Post Office

Enjoy the quiet electrical atmosphere. Listen closely to the screens of the self-service machines.

10 West 31st Street & 8th Ave

Walk slowly to West 31st Street and discover more deep vibrations. At the corner of 9th Avenue and West 31st Street take off your headphones. Switch them off completely and give your ears and your headphones a break.

11 Hudson Yards Shopping Mall

Switch your headphones back on again. Take the escalator to the first floor and discover the various security gates of shops like Kenzo, Coach, etc. Continue up to the second floor and explore the special security system of UNIQLO.

Leave the Shopping Mall for Hudson Plaza

12 Radio Benches

Finish your walk at the small park next to Hudson Boulevard. Stop at the round benches at the end and discover radio sounds.

Finally, bring your headphones back to the DiMenna Center for Classical Music and retrieve your credit card.