

- Christina Kubisch
- Electrical Walks

Ultrasound has commissioned renowned German sound artist, musician and composer Christina Kubisch to create a participatory public art project – Electrical Walks specifically for Huddersfield. Christina has explored the hidden electromagnetic landscapes of Huddersfield’s town centre and created a fascinating guided walk for audiences to experience. Sources of electromagnetic fields include illuminated retail displays, communication antennae, factories, buses and security devices. These electromagnetic fields are rendered audible via customised headphones; the palette of sounds, their timbre and volume vary enormously but they have one thing in common – they are ubiquitous.

Contemporary urban life is immersed in electrically powered technology; illuminated advertising, security systems, telephone exchanges, retail displays and screens all constantly emit invisible electromagnetic fields into our environment that are as if hidden under cloaks of invisibility. By employing her custom-built headphones Christina Kubisch has suggested routes through the local environment manifesting intriguing, humorous and surprising aural experiences along the way.

Perception of everyday reality changes when one listens to the electrical fields; what is familiar becomes strange in this context. Nothing appears the way it sounds and nothing sounds the way it appears.

Electrical Walks constitute an international series of explorations which invite audiences into a very special kind of wandering in cities and towns and have previously been presented at the following locations: Cologne, 2004 (Spanischer Bau); Berlin, 2005 (Akademie der Künste); Oxford, 2005 (Ovada Festival); Karlsruhe, 2005 (ZKM); Bremen, 2005 (Galerie Beim Steinernen Kreuz); London, 2005 (Goethe-Institut); Haarlem, 2006 (Galerie De Schone Kunsten); Birmingham, 2006 (IKON Gallery); London, 2006 (Goethe-Institut); Riga, 2006 (Goethe Institut Riga); New York, 2006 (The Kitchen); Oldenburg, 2007 (Edith-Russ House for Media Arts).

Audiences use an illustrated map and guide to take a journey through various locations either individually or in groups. The route starts at the Lawrence Batley Theatre and encompasses the exterior of Brierley’s Mill, the Free Town Bus ride, the railway station, the Civic Centre, a church, shops and cash machines, finally arriving back at the theatre. The duration of the walk varies according to how much time is dedicated to listening but can be anything from one to four hours.

#### Talk

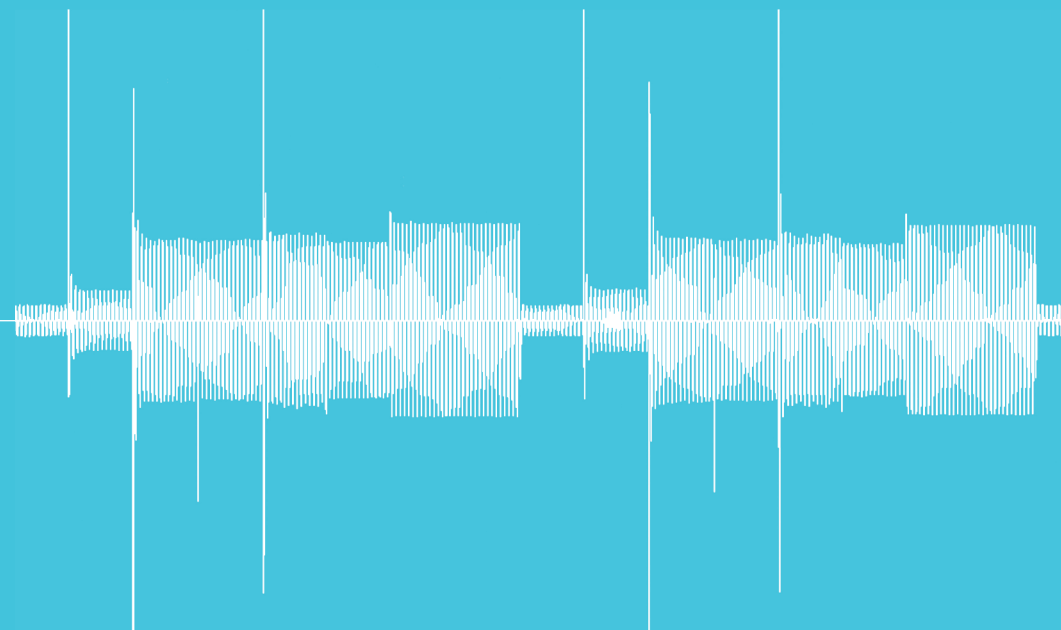
Christine Kubisch will talk about ‘Electrical Walks’ and other works:  
 Sunday 18 November, 12pm  
 Festival Hub, Lawrence Batley Theatre

Christina Kubisch was born in Bremen in 1948. She studied painting, music and electronics in Hamburg, Graz, Zurich and Milan. She has made performances, concerts, works with video, sound installations, sound sculptures and work with ultraviolet light. Her music compositions are mostly electro acoustic, but she has also written for ensembles.

Christina Kubisch has been visiting professor in Maastricht, Paris and Berlin. She is Professor for sound art at the Academy of Fine Arts, Saarbrücken, Germany (1994 - ) and is a member of the Akademie der Künste, Berlin.

[www.statedecay.co.uk](http://www.statedecay.co.uk)  
[www.christinakubisch.com](http://www.christinakubisch.com)

# Christina Kubisch Electrical Walks



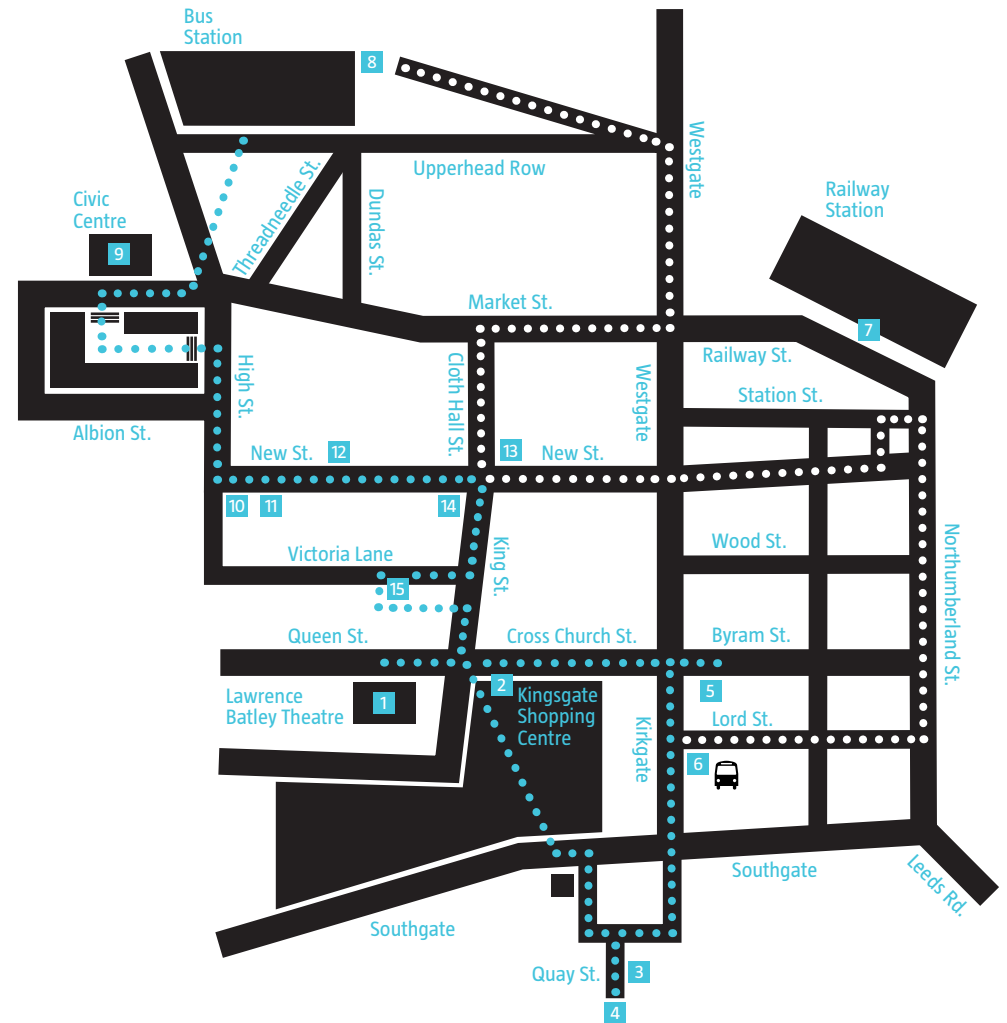
# Electrical Walks

- Electrical Walks
- Huddersfield

- 1 Lawrence Batley Theatre** Collect headphones.
- 2 Kingsgate Shopping Centre** Enter the shopping centre.  
**Curry's Digital** Listen closely to the flat screens throughout the shop.  
**Various shops** Proceed through the arcade and move near to the entrances of shops with security gates; Game Republic, Next, Burton, HMV. Some of these sounds are very loud. Take the headphones off if you want to go through the gates.  
**Beatties** Enter and explore the cosmetics department. Move close to the make-up stands and the light boxes. Take the escalator down to the ground floor, turn back on yourself and exit to underground carpark. Listen closely to the vending machines and LED screens.  
Take the headphones off. Turn right into the car park, cross it until you reach the double doors of the fire exit. Follow the steps down to the exit to the street (Southgate), walk past the bus shelter on the left side and cross at the lights. Turn left and walk along Southgate. Turn right down small alleyway. Pass Sainsbury's petrol station on your right. At the end turn left and take first right.
- 3 Brierley Mill** Stand near the Mill buildings on the left side near the end of the street. You will see a yellow sign 'Loading Only' in front of you on the street.
- 4 Bridge** Walk onto the bridge. Enjoy the view and the electrical silence.
- 5 Parish Church** (8am - 4pm) If open: listen closely to the wall just behind the right hand door. Go on and stand still in the inner entrance of the church. If closed: listen closely to the right hand door in the corner.
- 6 Free Town Bus** Take the Free Bus. Set the headphones to level 2. Enjoy the nicest electromagnetic sounds of Huddersfield and relax.
- 7 Railway Station** (optional) Set the headphones to the highest level again. Move close to the ticket machine and listen to the LED display. Listen on both sides. If possible move to the platforms and listen to trains arrive and depart.
- 8 Bus Station** Leave the bus, go into the main hall and proceed to the far end. Sit down in the photo booth. Leave via Main Exit towards the Town Centre.
- 9 Civic Centre** Outside the Bus Station head towards the Civic Centre on your right. Stand at the top of the wide steps outside the Civic Centre main entrance. Stand two paving stones back from the red sign 'No Public Access' (low to your right). You are surrounded by three antennae on the top of nearby buildings. Move your head slightly.
- 10 New Street** Security gate at Virgin Records.
- 11 Street Advertising** Listen closely, there are several in this street. Each one is different.
- 12 Yorkshire Bank** Exterior cash machine. Place your head close to the screens.
- 13 HSBC Bank** Try cash machines outside and any machine inside.
- 14 New Street & King Street** Stand at the corner of these two streets outside Vision Express. Look back up New Street and you will see the antennae at the end of the street.
- 15 Boots** Go inside and compare the cosmetic department to that of Beatties.
- 16 LBT** Return to LBT and the walk is complete.

Graphic design by Joe Gilmore, Qubik | [www.qubik.com](http://www.qubik.com)

- Map
- Huddersfield



- Map
- Key

Walk   
 Free Town Bus   
 Listening Point **1**

- Sat 17 – Sun 25 November 2007
- 10am – 5pm
- Commissioned by
- Ultrasound
- Produced by
- State Decay in partnership with HCMF