

Christina Kubisch

Electric Walks

Exhibition Road - 7 - 27 August

"Hello generation broadband. Bye bye wires."

This is an text of an actual London advertisement pitched at the "plug in - log on" generation. The technology of the future is invisible, inaudible, wireless. W-Lan, mobile phones, navigation systems, light advertisements, security devices and many other electrical items function by the use of electromagnetic waves. Heavy magnetic fields are concentrated in areas where people work, trade and consume: city centres, shopping arcades. Public transportation areas, office quarters. A great number of fields are due to security systems, such as the electronic "shields" at the entrances of department stores. These hidden worlds become audible when going on an "electrical walk".

By means of a wireless custom-made headphone the public can detect the electromagnetic fields in the form of audio signals. The variety is astonishing: loudness, length, tone and rhythm come in a great variety. Some of the buildings have induction loop systems for the hard of hearing.

All these systems are in a continuous process of change and development. There is no guarantee that you can hear all the sounds described on the map all the time. Sometimes sounds will change by just moving your head, sometimes they will appear or disappear out of the blue. The "electrical walk" is not an event, rather it is a slow walk which might reveal what was unknown before.

Christina Kubisch, 2005

Wearing the headphones is not harmful, but use with caution as some sound sources are louder than others. Take special care when crossing roads. The route indicated on the map is for your guidance only, please feel free to walk wherever you choose. Some of the sounds indicated on the map may not be present all of the time.

Visitors may wish to call in advance to book a time slot. You will also be asked to leave your driving license, passport, credit or debit card or suitable alternative as a deposit.

GOETHE-INSTITUT
50 Princes Gate, Exhibition Road
London SW7 / Tel 020 7596 4000
Nearest Tube: South Kensington
Opening times: Mon-Fri 9am-7pm;
Sat 9am-4.30pm
www.goethe.de/ins/gb/lon/

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International arts organisation motiroti has created priceless, a multi-layered artwork in which the voices of individuals and institutions merge in surprising and unexpected ways.

Electrical Walks is part of priceless.

motiroti
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Electrical Walks

Part of Priceless

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Bloomberg

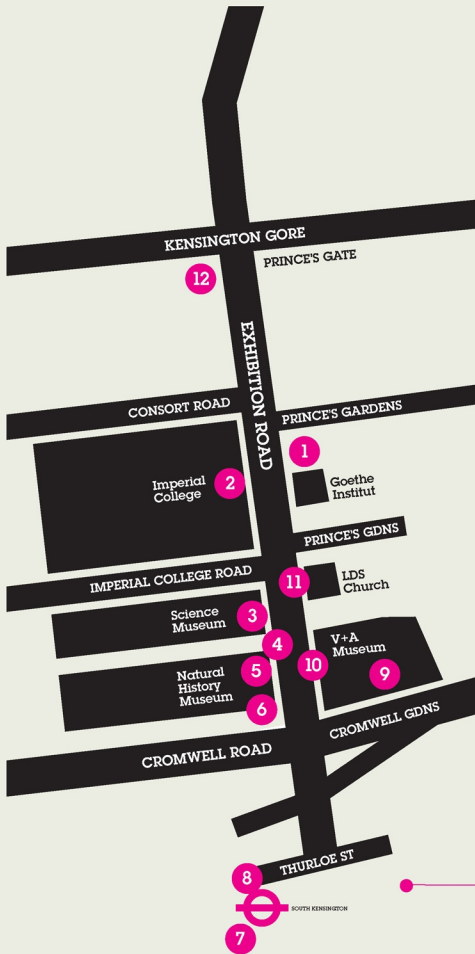


Imperial College
London



Serpentine
Gallery





1 GOETHE-INSTITUT

Starting point: pick up headphones.

2 IMPERIAL COLLEGE

Cross the street and go to the Exhibition Road entrance and walk to the reception area, where an induction loop is active (a system for hearing aids). When you walk straight forward, you come to some small steps. Stand with your back against the wall and slowly kneel down. Then turn right and go to the small reception (the Mechanical Engineering department) and sit down on the black leather sofa. Next, walk across the courtyard to the canteen, stand by the vending machines, holding your head as close as possible to the display, and stand beneath the suspended TV.

3 SCIENCE MUSEUM

Take the lift up to the first floor and whilst moving kneel down and place your head by the lift buttons. In the "Unusual Materials" exhibition you can hear particularly interesting rhythmic movements created by the ferroliquid display. Follow the instructions to charge these ferroliquids and wait for a few moments until this sound begins.

4 COACHES

As you leave the museum there will be parked coaches. Walk alongside these coaches and you will notice the sounds created by the motors.

5 NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Enter via the Exhibition Road entrance. Go directly to the museum shop. As you walk past the security gates of the shop pay special attention and stand right next to them. Next exit the second security gates to the left of the shop, walk along the corridor and kneel down at the digital display board. Then go to the "leaf factory" and "journey of a carbon atom" displays and stand between them and the wall. Leave via the main hall (Cromwell Road exit) and turn left via tube tunnel.

6 TUNNEL

Walk through the tunnel leading to South Kensington Station, placing yourself as closely to the left-hand side of the tunnel as possible. You will be able to pick up rhythmic movements emitted by passing cars fitted with satellite navigation.

7 SOUTH KENSINGTON STATION

As you come towards the station notice how noise builds up. Ticket machines, Oystercard machines and Internet payphones – go over to each of these and notice how they each have a different sound. Stand by the fire door with the "caution" sign between the ticket machines and the ticket office where an induction loop is fitted. If you have time, stand next to the fire point opposite the ticket barriers.

8 BUS STOP

Exit South Kensington Station to the right via Exhibition Road and stand by the bus stop directly outside the station (stop "G") and notice the change in intensity and pitch of the rhythmic movement as a bus pulls up and drives off. Now cross over to the V&A and listen out at the traffic lights and also for cars as they pass by.

9 V&A

Enter the V&A through the Cromwell Road entrance and go directly to the museum shop and take a right into the room numbered 45. Keep your headphones switched on and walk down the steps, turn left into room 24 and walk straight to the Exhibition Road exit.

10 BENCHES

Sit down on the benches outside the V&A which are on Exhibition Road and pay close attention to the sounds you hear.

11 THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

If the induction loop is switched on, you can hear everything being amplified for those inside the church. The best spot is on the far right-hand side of the church, just up the steps.

12 CORNER EXHIBITION ROAD / KENSINGTON ROAD

Continue to walk along Exhibition Road until you reach the corner where you will notice the hydrant sign (300/4) on the wall. Stand on this corner and listen out for the enhanced sounds you pick up, particularly when cars pass by.

If you now feel like a bit of peace and quiet, why not take off your headphones and stroll towards Hyde Park and the Serpentine Gallery?

Please bring back the headphones to the Goethe-Institut.

