

Deerhorn Project :: 2009 :: Peter B :: www.ciat-lonbarde.net

In the esoteric tradition, this project stems from a philosophical symbol, the deerhorn, which is used as an antenna in radio field installations, a metaphor in lectures and ceremonies, and a carrying handle on the cases to hold the art.

The Deerhorn Symbol

- Ancient Chinese *gugin* (scholar's zither) makers rub deerhorn powder into the instrument to harden the wood and reinforce its virility.
- Deerhorn is hung in gentlemen's lodges as a trophy.
- Thus it is associated with Jagermeister, an herbal drink for deerhunters, and through German Herbalism, to Goethe.
- Mexican shamans looking for plant medicine, call it "hunting deer"
- The deerhorn visually represents a cycle between the flesh of the brain and the "air" or "ethereal connection" at the tips of the horn.

Model a deerhorn in modern material, Aluminum, and it becomes an antenna for radio waveforms. This is where the electronic arts come in, by designing a unique sort of radiosonic heterodyne to resonate the antenna. There are invisible fields around instruments and this is where we link the electronics with the physical/spiritual.

To sound out movements and gestures within space, fill the architecture with deerhorn. At this point, the deerhorn is physically hidden, to simulate the esoteric idea of "the museum of the invisible". Thus the body of the instrument becomes metaphysical. The heterodynes are designed to respond gracefully to unknowing, pedestrian movements within the room.

For travel, there is a portable tapestry, a rollable synthesizer analog brain (nabra). Its circuits are made out of paper, so it is lightweight. On arrival at the venue, the tapestry is unfurled and hung on the wall, ready to sonify gestures. Touring with such an instrument is "art as art handling", symbolized on its case by a carrying handle made out of deerhorn.

Actualization History ::

February 2008- lecture at Maryland Institute College of Art, "Deerhorn: Sexuality and Instrument Making"

August 2008- Quad Deerhorn Installation at the American Visionary Art Museum of Baltimore, Maryland,

March 2009- Quad Deerhorn Installation at Stairwell Gallery, Providence, Rhode Island.

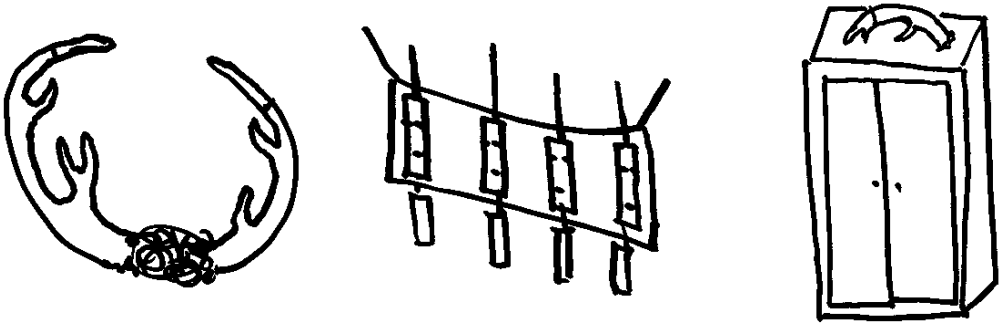
August 2009- Deerhorn Installation in Berlin, at Hall der Kultur, and deerhorn ceremonies/lectures/dances throughout Europe on the concept.



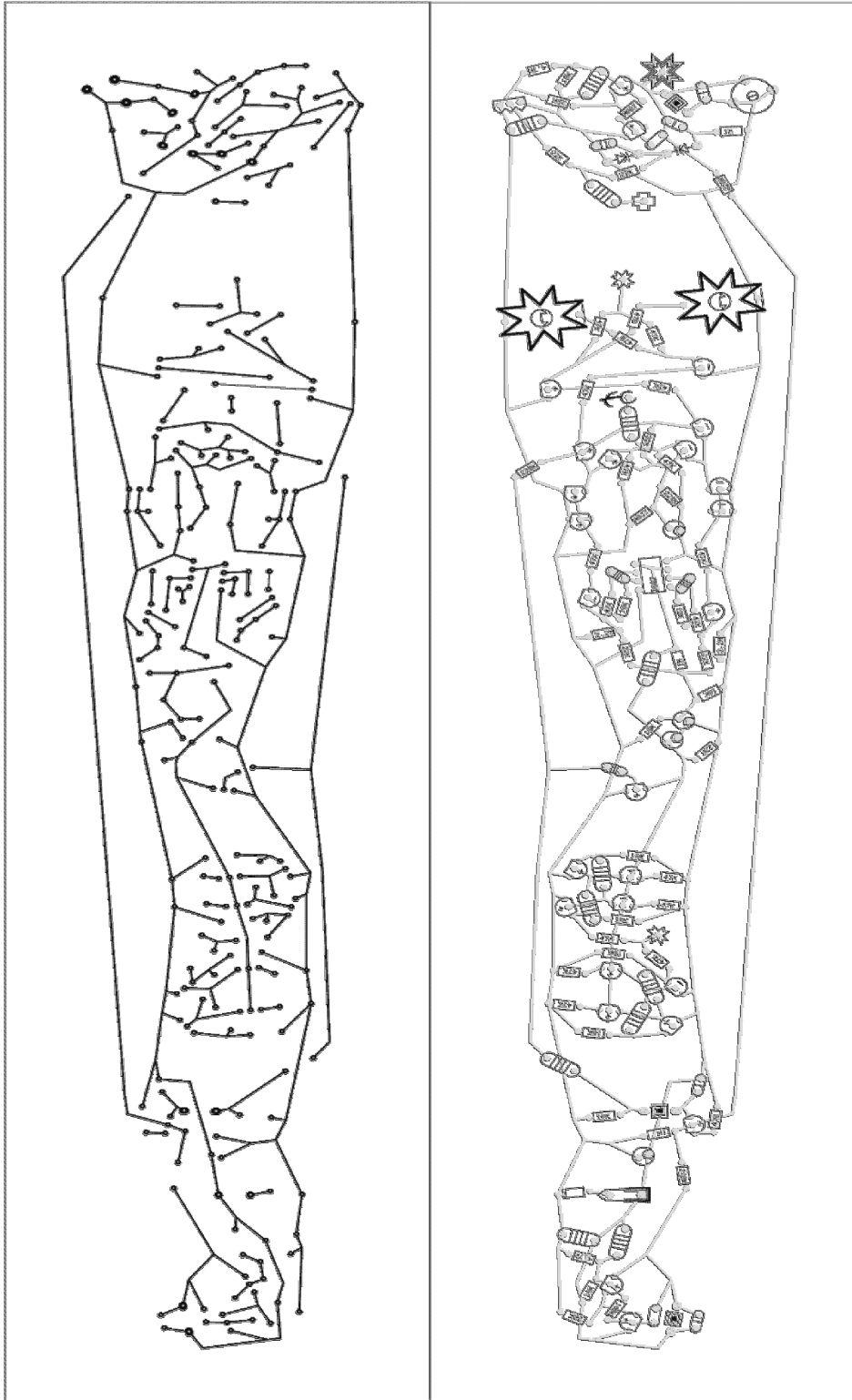
Quad Deerhorn Tapestry at AVAM, Baltimore



Peter B, Designer of Electronic Sound Textiles (nabra)



Typical deerhorn "rack"; the nabra idea; carrying case with deerhorn handle.



Paper circuit design for deerhorn module (not to scale)