

Space In Between

Jens Waldenmaier

An exploration of the experience of Time and Sound in Photographic Imaging.

The project originated from my intense involvement with commercial industrial photographic shoots over the past two decades. I often found myself shooting in industrial factories, surrounded by the rhythmic, repetitive beat of moving production lines. While listening to the sound, which seemed to crystallize the sensibility of this space, I started to expose film with an open shutter, moving along those production lines in a sympathetic motion with my camera. The resulting images revealed patterns within the structure of the production lines, which didn't exist in my other normal production images. This surprising and somewhat random visual result nurtured an interest to look more closely at the relationship between ambient sound and the photographic imaging process.

This led me to an interest in philosophical views on the concepts of time. Our ordinary, everyday way of thinking conceives and accepts time as a course of events, all being connected from the past to the present and into the future. French philosopher Henri Bergson contends in "An Introduction to Metaphysics" that real time is experienced as duration. Duration is an endless flow of experience in an indivisible continuity and can only be experienced by intuition (Bergson 1903).

I began my visual exploration by investigating the notion that duration has two fixed points, a beginning point and an end point. I was interested in what was happening between those two points of duration, specifically the space in between - the space between those two points being the collection of an experience within a certain time duration frame.

My readings also directed me to contemporary scientific principles of time and space, specifically Quantum mechanics and String theory. Quantum mechanics suggests that we consider all possibilities of happenings and the unpredictability of a certain outcome of a situation on the subatomic level. Contrasting to this is String theory, which suggests the existence of hidden dimensions – more dimensions than our three spatial dimensions plus the time dimension, the existence of matter simultaneously with its non-existence. These scientific theories raised mysterious questions; what does a hidden dimension look like?; what would it look like if matter existed and didn't exist at the same time?; is there some kind of space in between? The concepts of duration, Quantum mechanics and String theory informed how I considered different approaches of photographing constructed and natural landscapes under the influence of ambient sound.

This exhibition is the outcome of my investigation and describe experiences in the temporal zone. My photographs are visual representations of the embodiment of time duration in the world around us.

www.jenswaldemaier.com