

## assignment #4: sound illustration

Select a location (either on- or off-campus) where you might hear interesting sounds and go there with your notebook.

Stay for at least 20 minutes and **listen** very carefully. Close your eyes to focus on sound rather than visuals.

Write down a detailed list of the sounds you hear, in the order you hear them, and describe them thoroughly:

- Note the length of each sound
- Describe each sound with descriptive adjectives — loud, soft, deep, cheerful, gurgling, shuffling, exciting, piercing, soothing, etc. If it's speech, describe the tone of voice. If it's music, note the emotional quality. What does it feel like? What would it look like?
- Pay attention to relative sound volumes and whether noises seem close or distant.
- What is the relationship of each sound to the space you're in? Consider foreground and background noises, rhythm, and synchronization.
- What happens when sounds overlap simultaneously? How do they block or enhance each other?
- Is there a base-level sound that is always present?

Take your notes and create an illustration, or map, of the sounds you heard. This is a visual representation of your listening experience, and it should somehow represent both space and time.

Use whatever materials and elements (2D or 3D) you like – words, color, shapes, lines, etc. — to communicate the quality of each sound and show how different sounds relate to each other over time.

**NOTE:** You are translating sounds, which are invisible, into visuals. This translation requires a certain level of abstraction. This should not be a representational illustration of where you were, or of the objects or people making the sounds – illustrate the sounds themselves.