JAAKKO AUTIO

MULTICHANNEL LISTENING ROOMS



ON THE BORDER. One voice, close. Narva, 2022.

My sound installations begin with people listening and sounding together.

Their voices are given places in a room or landscape, where you can move closer, stay a while, or keep your distance.

Selected installations and production information
Oulu, Finland / Working internationally

ON THE BORDER

Narva, Tartu, Porvoo, Helsinki / 2022-2023 / 40-channel sound installation



Visitors moving between separate voices in the Kreenholm factory hall, Narva.

Forty singers from four choirs. Breath, speech and sung fragments are distributed across a field of forty loudspeakers. A visitor can approach one voice or stay with the larger body.

The work was developed in Narva in spring 2022. The war in Ukraine had begun weeks earlier. It listens for what remains in the body after geopolitics has passed through it. A familiar melody, shared by the Finnish and Estonian national anthems, appears briefly before dissolving into texture.

Material and encounter
Individual microphones preserve distinct voices within the choir. In the installation, proximity changes what the listener can distinguish. The arrangement is composed for the architecture of each presentation.

Work, films and credits

RE-BIRTH

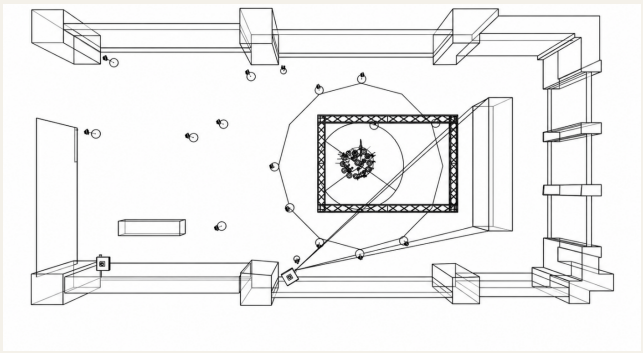
MUU Helsinki Contemporary Art Centre / 1-23 November 2025 / 40 channels



NIMITTA and the suspended speaker column, MUU Helsinki, 2025.

A shared breathing session becomes a space you can move through. Eleven phases of a 73-minute source recording coexist across the room. Moving between speakers means moving between moments of the recording.

At the centre, a recorded recitation and sixteen channels of sounding bowls hold a musical presence among the breaths. Visitors can lie beneath the column or remain with quieter sounds at the edge. Three headphone stations offer Finnish or English material. NIMITTA responds to sound through a microphone in the projection wall.



MUU installation plan
The layout is one realised configuration, adapted to this room. It is not a standard floor-area requirement.

One-minute room tour
Work, layout and credits

INTER, Jurmo

Jurmo, Finnish Archipelago / Summer 2026 / John Nurminen Foundation



Concrete horn speakers and a listening bench facing the Baltic Sea.

An outdoor listening installation beside the chapel and cemetery on Jurmo. A bench facing the sea offered a place to stay among recorded voices, the island's sounds and changing weather.

Thirty people and thirty microphones formed a shared recording field over nine days in spring 2026. Conversations moved through ordinary life in Finnish and Swedish: work, childhood, boats, weather and things that should not disappear.

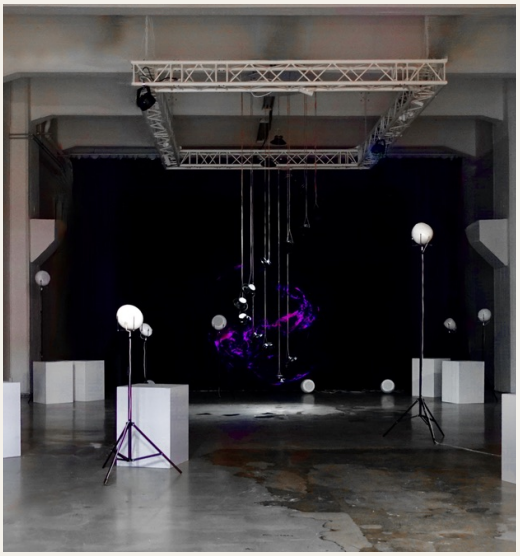
Configuration
Ten hand-cast concrete horn speakers carried island voices and tones composed from the chapel's pump organ. Three headphone listening points offered narration in Finnish, Swedish and English. The speaker bodies were developed for the island's weather and landscape.

Work, film, process and credits

Practice and context

Jaakko Autio is a Finnish sound and media artist based in Oulu. He makes spatial listening installations with recorded voices, breath and environmental sound.

Separate loudspeakers give voices places and directions in a room. Moving closer to one voice changes its relationship to the others. Seating, volume, pauses and the distances between sounds form the composition together.



Long-term contemplative practice and a background in theatre sound design inform his work with attention, duration and rest. Projects develop through recordings, conversations, material tests and adjustments on site.

Selected context
2026 / INTER, HELD (presented as SALATTU), Galleria Oiva, Ylivieska. A 30-channel installation with a generative floor image.

2025 / RE-VERB, Aine Art Museum, Tornio. The museum version was acquired into its permanent collection.

2023 / OWLA, Oulu Art Museum. Twenty channels with speech and singing from three choirs and 56 singers.

Tartu Art Museum's The Secrets of the Leaning Building, including Memories of the Leaning Building by Lundahl & Seitl in artistic collaboration with Autio, was named Estonia's Exhibition of the Year 2024.

MA, Sound Design, Theatre Academy, Uniarts Helsinki (2013).
BA, Film Sound Design, Metropolia University of Applied Sciences (2008).

Full CV and exhibition history

Exhibitions and commissions

Presenting an existing work
Suitability is assessed with the venue in relation to the space, acoustics and exhibition period. Speaker placement and the technical plan are developed for that presentation.

Commissioning a new work
The process begins with the place and its people. Locally embedded commissions can include choir recordings, spoken voices and environmental sound. Allow several months for research, recording and participant coordination.

System and installation
The artist provides a portable system typically configured with 20-40 loudspeakers, including playback, interfaces, amplification and patching. Gallery installation usually takes 3-4 days. Larger, outdoor or complex works may require up to 7 days.

Conditions to establish together
A dedicated room or sufficient acoustic separation is needed for a fully spatial work. Room dimensions, ceiling height, power, cabling, access, operating hours and maintenance are agreed in a project-specific technical plan. Video and blackout needs depend on the work.

Budget and first contact
Artist fee, equipment, travel, installation, local collaboration, freight and insurance are addressed in a project-specific budget. To begin, send proposed dates, exhibition duration, images or plans of the site and any interest in local recordings.

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jaakkoautio.com/for-curators

YouTube / installation films Instagram / current work

Photographs and installation plan: Jaakko Autio.
Further documentation and full collaborator credits are linked on each work page.