

## Sound Art Revisited By Alan Licht

The first edition of *Sound Art Revisited* (published as *Sound Art: Beyond Music Between Categories*) served as a groundbreaking work toward defining this emerging field and this fully updated volume significantly expands the story to include current research since the book's initial release. Locating sound art's roots across the centuries from spatialized church music to the technological developments of radio sound recording and the telephone the book traces the evolution of sound installations and sound sculpture the rise of sound art exhibitions and galleries and finally looks at the critical cross-pollination that marks some of the most important and challenging art with and about sound being produced today. Like every book on sound art it does lean heavily on 4'33 and I Am Sitting In A Room to tell its story but that only illustrates the relationship sound art has with the space containing it. It would be admittedly easy on first glance to draw parallels between the ambient chill out room and the sound installation in a gallery and environmental sound as a source and model for both ambient and sound art. Both the ambient chill out room and sound art installation can be a respite from the urban environment as an atrium would--the sounds are often meant to approximate natural settings, Viewed through a lens of music and art histories rather than philosophical theory it covers dozens of artists and works not found in any other book on the subject. *Sound Art Revisited* One of the more lucid and pragmatic books on the topic that clearly delineates boundaries between the terms sonic art sound art audio art, Quite enjoyable for its technically wonky perspectives on the field: After reading too much theory on the subject it's refreshing to read about how artists engage with the AV equipment and recording media, This revised edition in particular is also a pleasure for the sheer amount of artwork cataloged, Rather than deep dive on a few important pieces *Sound Art Revisited* enumerates hundreds of pieces and clusters them around meaningful categories such as *Sound in the Art World*: It seems obvious to discuss how visual artists use sound in their work but this book addresses it earnestly and historically, The lack of philosophizing about abstractions such as Silence and Listening also brought a real clarity to the material. But ambient was meant to decorate a room not to map it; it was perhaps a commercialization of some of sound art's qualities rather than an extension or mirror of them. *Sound Art Revisited*

