

SÉBASTIEN ROBERT

Sébastien Robert (1993, Nantes, FR) is an interdisciplinary artist and researcher who develops a practice at the intersection of visual and sound art, technology, science and ethnography. Most of his projects revolve around a research cycle, *You're no Bird of Paradise*, through which he explores disappearing Indigenous sonic rituals and cosmologies. Beyond simple documentation, yet not an ambitious ethnographic archiving project, he aims to translate these immaterial resources into long-lasting tangible works of art made of materials that echo the traditions of the communities encountered and the geo-specificities of the territories explored. Through his work and research, Sébastien searches for possibilities to create an engaged and expanding artistic dialogue between non-Western perspectives and new technology while questioning our perception of our environment and highlighting the epistemological diversity of the world we inhabit.

WEBSITES

sebastienrobert.nl

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.soundcloud.com/sebastienrobert

www.instagram.com/sebastien_r/

www.linkedin.com/in/sebastienrobert1/

www.vimeo.com/sebastienrobert

LID VAN BEROEPS- / KUNSTENAARSVERENIGING

Field Records

OPLEIDINGEN

- 2018 - ArtScience (MA) Den Haag, Koninklijke
- 2020 Academie van Beeldende Kunsten Diploma behaald
- 2011 - Entrepreneurship (M.B.A) ESDDES School of
- 2017 Business and Management Diploma behaald

TENTOONSTELLINGEN

- 2024 ZÉRØ1 Festival France I - Musée Maritime La Rochelle, Frankrijk
[Solo](#)
- 2024 Dans La Nature Espace Multimédia Gantner Bourgne, Frankrijk
[Groep](#)

PROJECTEN

- 2022 Back-and-forth Nederland
sebastienrobert.nl/Back-and-forth Back-and-forth is the result of several residencies in Vlieland (NL), where Sébastien discovered that at irregular intervals - but according to a ritual schedule - a powerful

2024	Sonic Acts EYE Museum Amsterdam, Nederland Groep
2023	SSSSSSSST AG (HKU) Utrecht, Nederland Groep
2023	Green Art Lab Alliance festival UFRO Campus Pucón, Chili Groep
2023	FIBER Festival - Fragments DOOR OPEN SPACE Amsterdam, Nederland Groep
2023	Obsoletely New! SIGN Groningen, Nederland Groep
2023	Superluminal Light Art Museum Budapest, Hongarije Groep
2023	Scopitone Festival ESBANM Nantes, Frankrijk Duo
2022	Schemerlicht Festival Goffertpark Nijmegen, Nederland Groep
2022	Biennale Chroniques Bibliothèque Méjanes Aix-en-Provence, Frankrijk Solo
2022	Nordlyst Festival Andenes Lighthouse Andøya, Noorwegen Groep
2022	Ayarkut - Terrestrial Voice Online Yakutsk, Rusland Groep
2022	Changes on Northern Shores Arktikum Rovaniemi, Finland Groep
2022	ZERO 1NE Festival Hansen House Jerusalem, Israël Groep
2022	Sonic Acts OT301 Amsterdam, Nederland Groep
2022	Today's Art x SHAPE The Grey Space in the Middle The Hague, Nederland

electromagnetic signal passes through the island for 20 minutes, before disappearing again into silence. This signal turned out to be a Weatherfax (or WEFAX), a weather map transmitted via radio waves from Hamburg (DE). This obsolete technology, used since the 1940s to share information with ships at sea and remote locations, originated from the work of Dutch cartographer and meteorologist Nicolas Kruik (1678-1754). Born in now disappeared West-Vlieland, he was the first to graphically represent weather data and to introduce symbols which are considered the forerunners of those used in today's weather maps. In the form of a site-specific generative installation, Back-and-forth, captures incoming Weatherfaxes transmissions, decodes them and draws them in the island's sand, before being overwritten again. In addition to the literal visualisation of the data sent, the work gives the island the opportunity to express itself during the creative process: the surface of the sand changes over time according to variations in temperature, humidity and wind. The project brings a forgotten technology back to its birthplace while offering a critical look at our Cartesian desire to constantly predict the future, in contrast to the unpredictable reality of the island, as Sébastien experienced during his visits. The result is the creation of ever-changing abstract cartography and archives, materialised through a dialogue between technology and the forces of nature.

2022 The Lights Which Can Be Heard Noorwegen sebastienrobert.nl/The-Lights-Which-Can-Be-Heard The Lights Which Can Be Heard is an artistic research project on the sounds of the Northern Lights, long witnessed by various indigenous communities in the Arctic. Despite the numerous testimonies, the Western scientific community denied their existence for decades until some hypotheses about their origin began to surface in the 1950s, which are still subject to debate today. Among the different theories, some think that the observer-listener can perceive in their environment the natural VLF (Very Low Frequency) radio waves produced by the Northern Lights. Some natural elements, such as minerals or crystals, would act as receivers and transform the

	Groep			electromagnetic radio waves into the audible, acoustic spectrum. Without rejecting any of them, this is the one that caught Sébastien's attention for his project. Despite successful recordings following a three-week residency in Andøya, Norway, Sébastien realised that the VLF waves emitted by the Northern Lights are becoming increasingly difficult to perceive due to anthropocentric activity. Drowned by artificial signals, these natural radio waves are bound to disappear from our perception. Inspired by this unique context and in continuity with his previous work, Sébastien approached this ongoing debate from different angles: indigenous, poetic and scientific, giving voice to each stakeholder while incorporating his own vision. The result is four interconnected works at the intersection of visual and sound arts, technology, science and ethnography, which allow the audience to perceive the sounds of the Northern Lights while preserving them in the light.
2022	Into The Great Wide Open Oost-Vlieland Vlieland, Nederland Groep			
2022	STRP Festival Pullman Hotel Eindhoven, Nederland Groep			
2021	Intangible losses 5020 / fünfzigzwanzig Salzburg, Oostenrijk Groep			
2021	Transliminal (Uncloud Festival) Pieter Baan Centrum Utrecht, Nederland Groep			
2021	Meakusma Cinema Eupen Eupen, België Groep			
2021	Warping Halos TivoliVredenburg Utrecht, Nederland Groep			
2021	Situated Sounds Arraymusic Toronto, Canada Groep	2020	As Above, So Below w/ Mark IJzerman Chili sebastienrobert.nl/As-Above-So-Below As Above, So Below explores the changing landscape of La Araucanía region in south-central Chile through live visuals and sound. This audiovisual performance probes into the dualism of man's relationship with nature via sonic research made by Sébastien Robert and investigative visuals created from satellite imagery as well as microscopic and drone footage by Mark IJzerman. During a residency in Chile they researched the logging industry that has been eroding the biodiversity of the region, causing disruption to the ecosystem.	
2020	ArtScience graduation show KABK The Hague, Nederland Groep			
2020	Instability (FIBER Festival) Tolhuistuin Amsterdam, Nederland Groep			
2020	Rewire x Korzo Paard van Troje The Hague, Nederland Groep			
2020	Polarities - Psychology and Politics of Being Ecological MU Artspace Eindhoven, Nederland Groep	2019	The Kultrun of Cañon del Blanco Chili sebastienrobert.nl/The-Kultrun-of-Canon-del-Blanco In La Araucanía region of Chile, ancestral Mapuche rituals are under threat due to drastic changes caused by climate change, land expropriation and logging on the ecosystem in which they live harmoniously for thousands of years. As the landscape disappears, so do their associated advanced knowledge of the natural world. The Kultrun of Cañon del Blanco studies the influence of the Kultrun - a Mapuche drum - on the crystallisation of the Araucaria Araucana's resin - a Mapuche sacred tree considered as living fossil - and	
2019	Piet Zwart Institute graduation show UBIK Gallery Rotterdam, Nederland Groep			
2019	The LIMA Collection: New Work LIMA Media Art Platform Amsterdam, Nederland Groep			
2019	Amsterdam Art Weekend Westergasfabriek Amsterdam,			

	Nederland Groep		explores the possibilities of preserving its ancestral rhythms in that medium. With his installation, Sébastien carries the rhythms of the drum in the resin and documents their influence on the formation of the crystals. This is being done using a technique called sensitive crystallisation that allows the formative forces of any organic material to be revealed pictorially.
2019	Rewire Festival Grey Space in the Middle The Hague, Nederland Groep		
2019	Dimensions Magick City Brooklyn Groep		
2019	Agri/Cultures.Seed-links Exhibition Global Seed Vault Svalbard, Noorwegen Groep	2018	The Forgotten Melodies of Pleng Arak Cambodja sebastienrobert.nl/The-Forgotten-Melodies-of-Pleng-Arak Pleng Arak, an ancient music performed during shamanistic ceremonies almost extinguished during the Khmer Rouge period (1975-1979), is now facing new risks: the rise of modern medicine as well as lack of belief from the younger generation. There are few musicians who desire to learn this spiritual healing practice and much knowledge will be lost when these older musicians pass away. In that context, Sébastien went in 2018 to record one of the last bands of Pleng Arak. The musicians allowed him to photograph them and record their repertoire, provided that it will never be sonically shared. Because it is exclusively performed during sacred rituals, listening to this music outside of its original context - besides being inappropriate - could potentially put the listener at risk. Sébastien therefore translated the recording's sonograms into a coding system based on the graphic score of one of the instruments used in Pleng Arak. These abstractions were then engraved on tablets made of limestone and sandstone - the most common in Cambodia - and stored for eternity in the coal mine alongside the Svalbard Global Seed Vault in Norway.
2018	Salone del Mobile Museum Diocesiano Mlian, Italië Groep		
2018	Present Progressive De School Amsterdam, Nederland Groep		
2018	Field Records: Future History OHM Berlin, Duitsland Groep		
2018	mnml ssgs x Field Records night DOMMUNE Tokyo, Japan Groep		
2018	Organik Festival 2018 Niushan Huting Hualien, Taiwan Groep		
2017	2_gather Art Center Nabi Seoul, Zuid-Korea Groep		
2017	Interstice Festival Église du Vieux Saint-Sauveur Caen, Frankrijk Groep		
2017	Mirage Festival Les Subsistances Lyon, Frankrijk Groep	2017	Timeshift w/ Mark IJzerman Zuid-Korea sebastienrobert.nl/Timeshift Time shift explores the acoustic ecology of South Korea, and documents this in a unique medium, an "audiophotobook". By using photos made in the winter of 2016 by Sébastien Robert and recording soundscapes in the summer of 2017 by Mark IJzerman in exactly the same locations, Time shift explores both the differences and similarities between what one sees and what one hears in these environments at different times of the year. By capturing the locations in both audio and
2017	Change The System Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen Rotterdam, Nederland Groep		
2016	Smoke Machine Night Korner Taipei, Taiwan Groep		
2016	Field Records Label Night Vurt Seoul, Zuid-Korea Groep		

2016 France + Singapore Photographic Arts Awards Alliance Française Singapore Singapore, Singapore
Groep

picture, it gives the viewer a fuller understanding of the locations.

INTERNATIONALE UITWISSELINGEN / ARTIST-IN- RESIDENCIES

2023 Bergen Center for Electronic Arts - BEK Bergen, Noorwegen
2023 The Arctic Circle Svalbard, Noorwegen
2023 IMéRA x Mucem Marseille, Frankrijk
2021 Arctic Wave Stave, Noorwegen
2020 Into the Great wide open Vlieland, Nederland
2019 Valley of the Possible Temuco, Chili
2018 WeTransfer Phnom Penh , Cambodja

PUBLICATIES

2021 Emerging Threshold Vinyl/Lp Meakusma Eupen, België
2020 Exploration or Appropriation? The position of contemporary sound artists towards Indigenous music Boek The Hague, Nederland
2017 Mydriasis Boek Paris, Frankrijk

RECENSIES

2023 Entretien avec Sébastien Robert, chercheur en résidence à l'Iméra (2022-23) TV Iméra
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Joj984Oz6GE
2023 The Lights Which Can Be Heard, audible Northern Lights Magazine Neural neural.it/2023/11/the-lights-which-can-be-heard-audible-northern-lights/
2022 À Aix-en-Provence, tendre l'oreille vers les aurores boréales Radio Arnaud Laporte
www.radiofrance.fr/franceculture/podcasts/affaire-a-suivre/a-aix-en-provence-tendre-l-oreille-vers-les-aurores-boreales-8771531
2022 Scientific research, cosmologies and human encounters to put into perspective a century-old debate Website obsolete.studio/blog/the-

PRIJZEN EN STIPENDIA

2023 Talent Development Grant Creative Industries Fund, NL Rotterdam, Nederland Granted
2023 Artistic Project Mondriaan Fund Amsterdam, Nederland Granted
2023 Mobility Grant Culture Moves Europe Brussels, België Granted
2022 Experiment Creative Industries Fund, NL Rotterdam, Nederland Granted
2022 Residency abroad Creative Industries Fund, NL Rotterdam, Nederland Granted
2021 Fonds [SCAN] Région Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Lyon, Frankrijk Granted
2021 Pro Onderzoek Stroom Den Haag The Hague, Nederland Granted
2021 DICRéAM CNC Paris, Frankrijk Granted

	lights-which-can-be-heard/	2021	Corona-overburgging Mondriaan Fund Amsterdam, Nederland Granted
2021	Mark IJzerman & Sébastien Robert on their collaboration, travel and cultural appropriation Website Lucia Udvardyova shapeplatform.eu/2021/mark-ijzerman-sebastien-robert-cultural-appropriation-is-something-we-both-take-very-seriously/	2021	Face of We Are Europe We Are Europe Tromsø, Noorwegen Selected
		2021	ACT 1 AWARD STRP Eindhoven , Nederland Granted
		2021	Shape Artist 2021 - 2022 SHAPE Platform Nederland Selected
2021	Using art to study endangered indigenous rituals and music Blog/Vlog Régine Debatty we-make-money-not-art.com/using-art-to-study-endangered-indigenous-rituals-and-music/	2020	Royal Academy Master Thesis Award Koninklijke Academie van Beeldende Kunsten, Den Haag Nederland Finalist
		2020	ArtScience Department Award Koninklijke Academie van Beeldende Kunsten, Den Haag Nederland Finalist
2021	The formidable, ancient power of nature in conversation with the needlepoint behaviour of technology Blog/Vlog Oli Warwick www.juno.co.uk/junodaily/2021/04/01/the-best-new-albums-this-week-3/	2020	Royal Academy Master Award Koninklijke Academie van Beeldende Kunsten, Den Haag Nederland Winner
		2020	Pro Onderzoek Stroom Den Haag Nederland Granted
2020	In conversation: Mark IJzerman & Sébastien Robert Website Holly Dicker www.rewirefestival.nl/feature/mark-ijzerman-sebastien-roberts-as-above-so-below-in-conversation	2016	FR + SG Photographic Arts Award Alliance Française Singapore Finalist

ARTISTIEKE NEVENACTIVITEITEN

2021 - 2022	Research Assistant - Studio Antimundo
2019 - 2021	Freelance Art Handler - Hizkia Van Kralingen
2018 - 2018	Curational Assistant - Mirage Creative+ (Dolus & Dolus)
2017 - 2017	Grant Assistant - STEP travel grants (European Cultural Foundation)
2017 - 2019	Supervisor - Museum Voorlinden (Stichting Voorlinden)
2016 - 2016	Production Assistant - European Lab Seoul (Arty Farty)
2015 - --	Project Manager - Field Records Loopt nog
2015 -	Project Manager - Coded Matter(s)

2016 (FIBER Festival)

2014 - Project Assistant - TodaysArt Festival
2014



The Sun, My Father, 2023



Magnetic Fluctuations, 2023



The Lights Which Can Be Heard, 2023



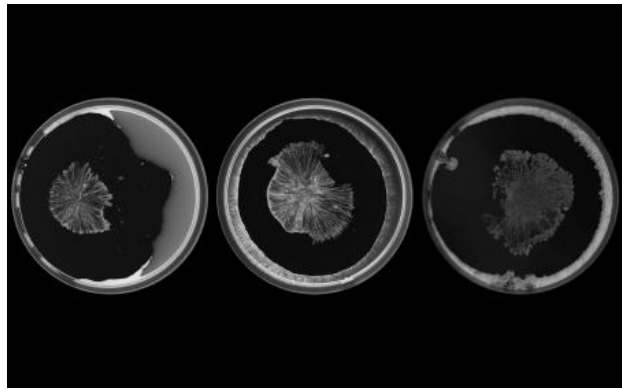
The Lights Which Can Be Heard, 2023



Back-and-Forth, 2022



Rite of Passage, 2021



Study of crystal growth, 2021



As Above, So Below, 2020



Ak, 2019



Timeshift, 2017