

VOIS, by Miki Yui

Miki Yui came to Upper Pellice Valley in July 2016, together with other artists and performers, where she created some fascinating installations, made with very simple means, in various places along the alternative path to the Prà basin. Like all the actions performed by the artists/performers in those days, hers too were ephemeral, and disappeared with the end of “La collera delle lumache” [The Snails' Wrath]. All that remains are only a few photographic traces, or some video footage, and of course, the memories retained by those who had suddenly discovered them while walking on the path in those days.

Just a little less than a year later, after responding to an invitation from the curator of the exhibition "Walking and Dreaming in the Woods", the artist created a composition, *VOIS*, which can be heard in the great hall of the Ecomuseum of Feltrificio Crumière, in front of the large windows that open onto a view of the beautiful landscape in front of the museum, a few miles as the crow flies from the places of the artistic actions in 2016. The piece, about 24 minutes long, is made of digital sounds (actually, real sounds recorded and then processed by Yui herself), mixed with birdsong and rather long periods of silence that are an integral part of the composition. The presence of this mixture of sounds and silences within the museum is very discreet, very allusive, and it wishes to evoke something that belongs to memory, perhaps to dreaming, without defining it in any precise way, and above all, without imposing upon the visitor, who is *invited* to listen.

Miki does not usually like to give too many explanations of the origin of her sounds, including those we hear now which have been transformed, thus having become new sounds, and others from their original source. Instead, she invites the listener to experience them without any preconceptions, allowing themselves to be transported into a realm belonging to their imagination, while observing the landscape of the valley through the large windows. The only 'revelation' given by the author is the one relating to the title: *VOIS* is meant to suggest both 'voice', an English word that translates into the Italian word 'voci' (or the plural voices / voci) and 'je vois', meaning 'I see' in French, therefore discreetly suggesting to the visitor of the exhibition what is the best approach to her composition.

C F, May 2017

Miki Yui was born in Tokyo, Japan, and has been living in Düsseldorf, Germany for many years. A visual artist, musician, and performer, her "work deals with the memory of lived events, and focuses particularly on images and sounds, revealing the trace, or wake, that these leave behind as they fade away, after having appeared (in the former case) or been produced (in the latter)" [CF, 2006/2007].

(translated by Laura Culver)