

{JC(639)}

a film by Sabine Groschup

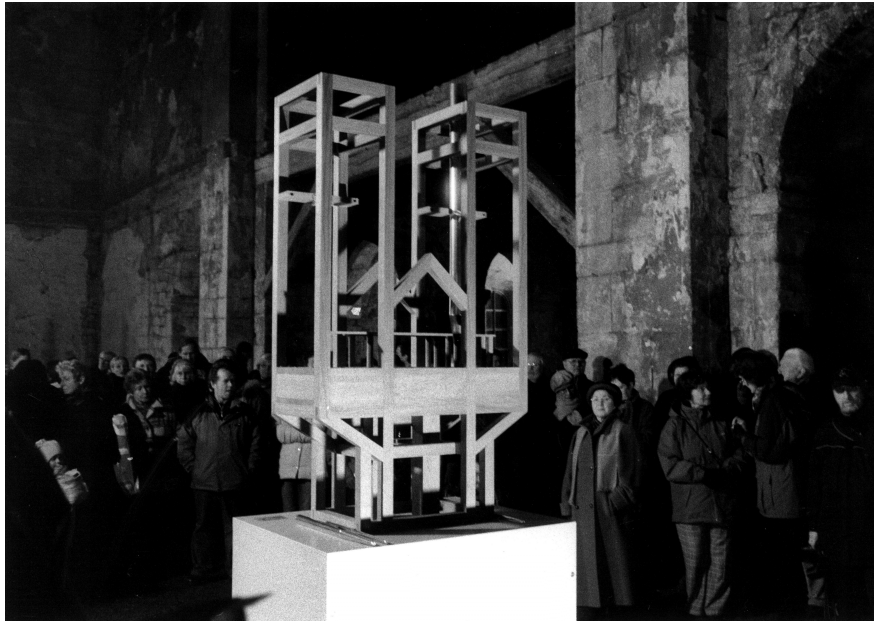


Photo Barbara Klemm

Sabine Groschup's experimental film (AT 2006/2012, 29'14") about John Cage's *ORGAN²/ASLSP* in the St. Burchardi church in Halberstadt, Germany documents in striking images (camera Jerzy Palacz; photos Barbara Klemm) and superb sound design (Eric Spitzer-Marlyn) the 639-year performance of Cage's composition for organ that is attracting worldwide attention.

The Austrian artist, filmmaker and author uses a technique quite possibly unique in the history of the film medium, one that relates directly to John Cage: she allows chance to determine the course of her film about the musical work that is to be played "as slowly as possible" (*ASLSP* = As SLOW as Possible). The director established 89 scenes (corresponding to the composition's 89 tones) whose sequence is determined by chance operations carried out by persons with a close relationship to Cage. The so-called scene-drawing replaces the final edit and brings the existing cinematic material into a panoply of novel, randomly-sequenced arrangements.

Sabine Groschup plans a total of 89 of these 'chance operations'. A few have already been carried out, for instance by Laura Kuhn, the director of the John Cage Trust in New York; by Ray Kass, founder of the Mountain Lake Workshop; and by the Austrian author Friederike Mayröcker. All 89 versions of the film will be published together in a boxed set as a limited edition.

The first version, chance operations order #1, carried out on January 9, 2012, by the Slovakian curator Jozef Cseres for the exhibition *Membra Disjecta for John Cage*. *Wanting to Say Something About John*, is being released as a DVD in conjunction with Cage's 100th birthday on September 5, 2012. The companion booklet features texts by Christoph Bossert, Franziska Bruckner, Wulf Herzogenrath, Rainer O. Neugebauer and Hannah Schwegler as well as a selection of black-and-white photographs, made for and used in the film, by Barbara Klemm. (ISBN: 978-3-200-02698-8)