

# Conversations with Stelarc's INTERNET EAR

By STELARC & Morten Søndergaard

## Abstract

Casts of the EAR ON ARM, embedded with electronics was Internet enabled in four international locations: Paris (F), Moscau (RUS), Copenhagen (DK) and Aalborg (DK).

By speaking into the ear on the arm, your voice is heard and seen as text projected in the other locations and also accessed on the Ear On Arm website. Webcams monitor each location and image the interactions on the website. The result is a looping cacophony of modulated voices and projected text, ebbing and flowing in density and intensity over different time zones. The international installation will not be about explicit exchanges, but rather about acoustical affect and ephemeral text.

The following is based partly on a text by the artist, some text written for the exhibition, and excerpts from the conversations conducted by the Internet Ear from October 14 2010 and until January 7 2011 in the context of the exhibiton *BIOTOPIA – Art in the Wet Zone* in Aalborg (DK).<sup>1</sup>

## 1. Introduction

With *Internet Ear* the Australian artist Stelarc ventures into a controversial area: the fusion of the human body with technology. By means of a lengthy surgical process the artist had an artificial human ear implanted in his forearm. A subsequent operation then installed microscopic electronic equipment in this third ear, with a view to both transmitting and receiving sound. Because of the danger of possible infection it was impossible to give the ear a technological “sense of hearing” and the equipment was removed. But the ear is still attached to Stelarc’s arm; Thus, *Ear on arm* is a mute reality.

*Internet Ear*, which was commissioned for the BIOTOPIA exhibition (Aalborg, Denmark 2010), launches the *Ear on Arm* project onto the Internet. Software and the Internet transform *Internet Ear* into a listening arm. You can listen along with it from (and to) Moscow or Paris, or whatever corner of the globe you happen to be in.

Stelarc’s *Internet Ear* has its own blog ([www.earonarm.net](http://www.earonarm.net)), where anyone can contribute to the ear’s dialogue with itself. *Internet Ear* is an exploration of technological sensuality and the

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<sup>1</sup> Internet Ear was commissioned for the exhibition Biotopia - Art in the Wet Zone, curated by Morten Søndergaard in the context of the PORT 20:10 Festival of Contemporary Art and Social Technology and KUNSTEN – Museum of Modern Art in Aalborg, Denmark.

technology of the senses. Furthermore it is an open channel for listening to the world, a fusion of human being and machine, biology and bytes.

The other factor at work in *Ear on Arm*, the exploration of technological sensuality, becomes a distributed and expanded sensuality; a sensual technology disconnected from its original “host” and, in principal, beyond its control. We can hear with Stelarc’s ear!

In *Internet Ear*, the body is not 'itself'. It is not useful as general reference framework for understanding the world. The body is "obsolete", in the words of Stelarc whereby he expresses the belief that as a static entity in a soul-and-body dichotomy without paradoxical implications and (self) relationships, the body is antiquated. Outdated.

Stelarc insists that the body is a 'physical experience of Ideas'.

The following is an expressions of that very notion... a conversation with Stelarc and the world through the Internet Ear.

## **2. Conversations**

### **2.1 ORGANS WITHOUT BODIES**

2010-10-15 09:22:36 Anonymous Hi!

2010-10-15 09:48:06 Aalborg sting from all the

2010-10-15 09:48:07 Aalborg all

2010-10-15 09:48:13 Aalborg are

2010-10-15 09:48:18 Aalborg are

2010-10-15 09:48:19 Aalborg half

2010-10-15 09:48:23 Aalborg are

2010-10-15 09:48:24 Aalborg off

2010-10-15 09:48:28 Aalborg are

2010-10-15 09:48:43 Aalborg bodies are obsolete

2010-10-15 09:48:48 Aalborg are

2010-10-15 09:53:40 Aalborg one testing 123 bodies are obsolete testing testing

2010-10-15 09:55:00 Aalborg the cabinet of the time that I've

2010-10-15 09:55:01 Aalborg ended june era

2010-10-15 09:55:04 Aalborg long

2010-10-15 09:55:08 Aalborg a home

2010-10-15 09:55:14 Aalborg along

2010-10-15 09:55:18 Aalborg home

2010-10-15 09:55:21 Aalborg or even

2010-10-15 09:55:23 Aalborg long

2010-10-15 09:55:25 Aalborg and

2010-10-15 09:55:29 Aalborg home and

2010-10-15 09:55:33 Aalborg long

2010-10-15 09:55:38	Aalborg	long
2010-10-15 09:55:47	Aalborg	how the body is obsolete
2010-10-15 10:16:21	Aalborg	intimate here
2010-10-15 10:23:31	Aalborg	oracle
2010-10-15 10:23:35	Aalborg	, that is the
2010-10-15 10:23:36	Aalborg	only reason
2010-10-15 10:23:41	Aalborg	he has
2010-10-15 10:23:47	Aalborg	long accused nothing
2010-10-15 10:23:53	Aalborg	we have to have the following was omitted us a few
2010-10-15 10:23:56	Aalborg	real-life
2010-10-15 10:24:00	Aalborg	-size
2010-10-15 10:24:05	Aalborg	IE or 15 points a
2010-10-15 10:24:15	Aalborg	event was a ease
2010-10-15 10:27:22	Aalborg	the body is obsolete

## 2.2 FRACTAL and PHANTOM Flesh

2010-10-15 12:42:23	Aalborg	other
2010-10-15 12:43:02	Aalborg	counties by a commission
2010-10-15 12:43:10	Aalborg	Moscow come a long
2010-10-15 12:43:17	Aalborg	, all of the
2010-10-15 12:43:28	Aalborg	long
2010-10-15 12:43:29	Aalborg	haul
2010-10-15 12:51:52	Aalborg	tough time in the
2010-10-15 12:51:56	Aalborg	valley have to leave the healing like it or
2010-10-15 12:52:02	Aalborg	where they saw a list of
2010-10-15 12:52:10	Aalborg	minutes of fame
2010-10-15 12:52:19	Aalborg	feeling here is really
2010-10-15 12:52:23	Aalborg	knows what will
2010-10-15 12:52:29	Aalborg	win the respect of ways
2010-10-15 12:52:30	Aalborg	these
2010-10-15 12:52:40	Aalborg	who is going to be

2010-10-15 12:52:42	Aalborg	Moscow until
2010-10-15 12:52:46	Aalborg	this is a
2010-10-15 12:52:49	Aalborg	lot of
2010-10-15 12:52:55	Aalborg	you-all of these are kids
2010-10-15 12:52:57	Aalborg	that he was
2010-10-15 12:53:03	Aalborg	brings home the point-
2010-10-15 12:53:20	Aalborg	body is obsolete the body is obsolete
2010-10-15 12:53:39	Aalborg	when
2010-10-15 12:54:19	Aalborg	if you feel
2010-10-15 12:54:21	Aalborg	when he
2010-10-15 12:54:29	Aalborg	she makes the
2010-10-15 12:54:36	Aalborg	walls are others like it or you are
2010-10-15 12:54:45	Aalborg	the days of his points or less years or so are you
2010-10-15 12:54:50	Aalborg	a lot going on here we
2010-10-15 12:54:53	Aalborg	can't win the
2010-10-15 12:55:30	Aalborg	own
2010-10-15 12:55:41	Aalborg	a cost of 20
2010-10-15 12:55:54	Aalborg	2020 THS
2010-10-15 12:56:01	Aalborg	and
2010-10-15 12:56:05	Aalborg	a whole or
2010-10-15 12:56:12	Aalborg	any of these
2010-10-15 12:56:18	Aalborg	body on the client or see
2010-10-15 12:56:23	Aalborg	in one of
2010-10-15 12:56:26	Aalborg	only one
2010-10-15 12:56:28	Aalborg	of the
2010-10-15 12:56:42	Aalborg	ink was a student is a

2010-10-15 12:56:49	Aalborg	say,
2010-10-15 12:56:56	Aalborg	been three
2010-10-15 12:57:03	Aalborg	or early
2010-10-15 12:57:08	Aalborg	season
2010-10-15 12:57:16	Aalborg	with a
2010-10-15 12:57:32	Aalborg	call when the public image-
2010-10-15 12:58:12	Aalborg	less
2010-10-15 12:58:18	Aalborg	likely to replace either body is obsolete
2010-10-15 12:58:20	Aalborg	body is obsolete
2010-10-15 12:58:33	Aalborg	without a doubt anything about that idea
2010-10-15 12:58:51	Aalborg	at the end zone
2010-10-15 12:59:03	Aalborg	or when it says are not already are
2010-10-15 12:59:14	Aalborg	Oilers all
2010-10-15 12:59:16	Aalborg	the way
2010-10-15 12:59:20	Aalborg	home
2010-10-15 12:59:51	Aalborg	that I doubt they'll live
2010-10-15 13:00:20	Aalborg	some of our lives of the rights of the lines are
2010-10-15 13:00:22	Aalborg	right
2010-10-15 13:00:34	Aalborg	in with one of the year to year-over 71 o'clock o'clock on a
2010-10-15 13:00:42	Aalborg	death penalty if they are
2010-10-15 13:01:04	Aalborg	lots
2010-10-15 13:01:10	Aalborg	of the
2010-10-15 13:01:34	Aalborg	avocado is obsolete the body is blurring of a distorted taking all the
2010-10-15 13:02:	Aalborg	money
2010-10-15 13:02:16	Aalborg	home
2010-10-15 13:02:19	Aalborg	all
2010-10-15	Aalborg	call

13:02:20		
2010-10-15 13:02:35	Aalborg	until the fifth and given a
2010-10-15 13:02:36	Aalborg	sting 123 testing 123
2010-10-19 14:54:37	julien	hi Stelarc Aalborg & Moscow...
2010-10-19 14:54:48	Aalborg	, a hole in the
2010-10-19 14:54:53	Aalborg	long
2010-10-19 14:54:55	Aalborg	will
2010-10-19 14:54:58	Aalborg	the long
2010-10-19 14:55:00	Aalborg	haul
2010-10-19 14:55:03	Aalborg	along
2010-10-19 14:55:08	Aalborg	long
2010-10-19 14:55:13	Aalborg	long
2010-10-19 15:03:23	Anonymous	hi julien . greetings from aalborg
2010-10-19 15:03:34	Aalborg	E long
2010-10-19 15:03:39	Aalborg	long
2010-10-19 15:03:41	Aalborg	you,
2010-10-19 15:03:44	Aalborg	along
2010-10-19 15:03:46	Aalborg	you
2010-10-19 15:03:49	Aalborg	long
2010-10-19 15:03:51	Aalborg	you
2010-10-19 15:04:16	AnonymousMontreal	Editing wide format version of Ear On Arm surgery at Concordia.\r\n
2010-10-19 15:07:04	Aalborg	along
2010-10-19 15:08:30	Laurent from Paris	what is the ear futur? witch application?
2010-10-19 15:08:35	Aalborg	and
2010-10-19 15:08:40	Aalborg	a year long
2010-10-19 15:08:45	Aalborg	long
2010-10-19 15:08:50	Aalborg	long
2010-10-19 15:09:57	AnonymousMontreal	Hmm, too much uninteresting feedback, sound will need to be turned down.
2010-10-19 15:10:01	Aalborg	a year
2010-10-19 15:10:05	Aalborg	and a law
2010-10-19 15:10:10	Aalborg	you are
2010-10-19 15:10:15	Aalborg	a long
2010-10-19 15:10:16	Aalborg	been a
2010-10-19 15:10:20	Aalborg	long
2010-10-19 15:10:25	Aalborg	long
2010-10-19 15:13:06	Concordia	What\'s important is that important text is not lost...
2010-10-19 15:13:12	Aalborg	the
2010-10-19 15:13:15	Aalborg	long
2010-10-19 15:13:21	Aalborg	long

2010-10-19 15:18:26	Concordia	Volume of sound needs to be turned down to minimize feedback.
2010-10-19 15:19:26	Paris	true, it's too high
2010-10-19 15:19:30	Aalborg	where
2010-10-19 15:19:33	Aalborg	he,
2010-10-19 15:19:36	Aalborg	along
2010-10-19 15:19:41	Aalborg	long
2010-10-19 15:19:46	Aalborg	long
2010-10-19 15:20:18	Concordia	Is someone listening, ha ha ha?!
2010-10-19 15:21:11	Anonymous	yes for sure
2010-10-19 15:21:18	Aalborg	Hugh
2010-10-19 15:21:24	Aalborg	long
2010-10-19 15:21:31	Aalborg	long
2010-10-19 15:21:52	Anonymous	hugh!
2010-10-19 15:30:26	Stelarc	Good that you are listening and agree. A few lines of feedback is OK but too much loses the contributed and meaningful text.
2010-10-15 14:07:59	Aalborg	that is the issue
2010-10-15 14:08:04	Aalborg	home
2010-10-15 14:08:21	Aalborg	-use nothing\nWe have to use the late
2010-10-15 14:08:28	Aalborg	1995, a recurrence of Ulysses, little more
2010-10-15 14:08:32	Aalborg	weeks at the same cells from white body recovery and gay rights laws
2010-10-15 14:08:48	Aalborg	we lost season, faith no more than five million-year-old place the rice paper
2010-10-15 14:08:51	Aalborg	signed a home-school
2010-10-15 14:09:01	Aalborg	you, call or argument is the kind of strong enough to say, your career
2010-10-15 14:09:28	Aalborg	and has one of these artists of the Moscow and when he or so easily as three cities like our chances of the cases as recently as
2010-10-15 14:09:37	Aalborg	Wednesday to run and we'll see no reason
2010-10-15 14:09:39	Aalborg	the body is obsolete the body is obsolete and learning bodies
2010-10-15 14:09:42	Aalborg	a lot
2010-10-15 14:09:46	Aalborg	more
2010-10-15 14:09:54	Aalborg	someone else over a seven-eleven's on

## 2.3 The CADAVER, the COMATOSE and the CHIMERA

### 2.3.1 The Cadaver

2010-10-22 16:40:57	paris	que son temps et en
2010-10-22 16:41:45	paris	les cellules Ryan
2010-10-22 16:41:46	paris	et ?
2010-10-22 16:42:01	paris	N'aquitaine et quand m?me
2010-10-22 16:42:04	paris	de la p?che et syndicaux
2010-10-22 16:51:16	paris	snsm

2010-10-22 20:55:18	Anonymous	i speak and my voice disappears into broken syllables and rhythmic notes
2010-10-22 21:38:47	Cornflake Girl ?	Je comprend rien a cette oreille mais bon si elle veut bien m'ecouter... Les chemins n'existent pas, ils se creent en marchant.
2010-10-22 21:39:36	Teva	Sympa la photo, hier. Merci Stelarc!
2010-10-23 04:20:52	Montreal	Sounds good Anonymous...
2010-10-23 04:22:43	Stelarc	Hey, Teva no probs!

2010-10-16 12:09:17	Aalborg	love
2010-10-16 12:09:24	Aalborg	, he added
2010-10-16 12:09:26	Anonymous	ici le ciel est bleu\r\n
2010-10-16 12:09:34	Aalborg	he who
2010-10-16 12:09:44	Aalborg	you are not sent
2010-10-16 12:10:59	paris	
2010-10-16 12:11:45	paris	Paris st
2010-10-16 12:11:50	Aalborg	their
2010-10-16 12:12:06	paris	1000
2010-10-16 12:13:47	gaetan	Could\you tell me if it\'s possible to have an extra ear too

2010-10-15 17:12:34	paris	v?lo stella amstel femme est la r?gle ou dans les eaux du Rhin et remis hier ?
2010-10-15 17:12:43	Aalborg	a law, and more, and you
2010-10-15 17:13:53	paris	les enlever 11 souris ont mis vendredi 11 jours et il serait faux de six
2010-10-15 17:13:56	paris	100 leur r?le leur faudrait alors
2010-10-15 17:14:23	Aalborg	along
2010-10-15 17:19:34	paris	que les pays en voie des armes
2010-10-15 17:20:19	Aalborg	long
2010-10-15 17:20:20	Aalborg	love
2010-10-15 17:20:24	Aalborg	along
2010-10-15 17:20:29	Aalborg	along
2010-10-15 17:31:07	Stephane	Hi Stelarc Are you here, in the depth of your blood vessels and in the maze of your nervous system ? So far, the connection is not obvious

### 2.3.2 The Comatose

2010-10-16 13:24:31	Stelarc	where is morten?\r\n
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### 2.3.3 The Chimera

2010-10-15 14:23:34 Aalborg -movies  
 2010-10-15 14:23:35 Moscow that it has for the 13th taft  
 2010-10-15 14:23:36 Aalborg are  
 2010-10-15 14:23:43 Moscow cost us via video  
 2010-10-15 14:23:46 Aalborg off the list of worries me off the bench  
 2010-10-15 14:23:55 Aalborg -a-year-  
 2010-10-15 14:23:58 Aalborg old enough  
 2010-10-15 14:23:59 Moscow see you on the  
 2010-10-15 14:24:06 Aalborg to life,  
 2010-10-15 14:24:08 Moscow EC in Moscow sometimes we are only a staff to listen  
 2010-10-15 14:24:14 Moscow and lively rights of innocent  
 2010-10-15 14:24:19 Aalborg if a-half  
 2010-10-15 14:24:22 Aalborg of her  
 2010-10-15 14:24:26 Aalborg life  
 2010-10-15 14:24:28 Aalborg long  
 2010-10-15 14:24:32 Aalborg have lost and anything that  
 2010-10-15 14:24:44 Aalborg the mustangs  
 2010-10-15 14:25:54 Aalborg small home:  
 2010-10-15 14:26:17 Aalborg Moore was the  
 2010-10-15 14:26:21 Aalborg all  
 2010-10-15 14:26:22 Moscow in the wings of the  
 2010-10-15 14:26:25 Moscow elite to regal  
 2010-10-15 14:26:33 Moscow onto one of the  
 2010-10-15 14:26:51 Aalborg when you are going  
 2010-10-15 14:26:58 Aalborg , or  
 2010-10-15 14:27:42 Aalborg call since the  
 2010-10-15 14:27:54 Aalborg heels of the year when of all  
 2010-10-15 14:27:58 Aalborg have the  
 2010-10-15 14:28:02 Aalborg money he said  
 2010-10-15 14:28:07 Aalborg if he wins:  
 2010-10-15 14:28:12 Aalborg a, and we also visited for  
 2010-10-15 14:28:22 Aalborg a UN-self or a  
 2010-10-15 14:28:31 Aalborg hi, Sonya  
 2010-10-15 14:29:27 Aalborg judge\s  
 2010-10-15 14:29:35 Aalborg ruling  
 2010-10-15 14:29:43 Aalborg sets of  
 2010-10-15 14:29:53 Aalborg creature: three  
 2010-10-15 14:29:56 Aalborg levels  
 2010-10-15 14:29:59 Aalborg always says  
 2010-10-15 14:30:05 Moscow the world\s  
 2010-10-15 14:30:09 Moscow and no world  
 2010-10-15 14:30:10 Aalborg S-two overall policy, usually one of our lives on the arms of the lis  
 2010-10-15 14:30:13 Aalborg killed or  
 2010-10-15 14:30:14 Moscow might check 1 to 1  
 2010-10-15 14:30:25 Aalborg Moscow as of early

2010-10-15 14:30:36 Aalborg the body is obsolete the body is obsolete  
 2010-10-15 14:30:46 Moscow of these  
 2010-10-15 14:30:53 Aalborg request of those  
 2010-10-15 14:30:59 Aalborg cities  
 2010-10-15 14:31:17 Aalborg we have to live in the  
 2010-10-15 14:31:21 Aalborg creating the following are also feeling the  
 2010-10-15 14:31:28 Aalborg way this is actually one of the  
 2010-10-15 14:31:33 Moscow One assumes the one who\'s the  
 2010-10-15 14:31:34 Aalborg things we might have been killed in  
 2010-10-15 14:32:04 Aalborg half  
 2010-10-15 14:32:40 Moscow chief  
 2010-10-15 14:35:31 Aalborg body is obsolete in the body is obsolete

2010-10-22 04:34:17 Montreal

The body is now a fluid and FLOATING SIGNIFIER whose meaning is unstable and constantly being recoded and reconfigured. The body becomes simultaneously a ZOMBIE and a CYBORG. It performs involuntarily and it becomes increasingly automated. What it has always been and what it has already become. Rather than seeing the body as augmented and extended by its instruments, the body itself now becomes a prosthesis to enable its avatars- an INVERSE MOTION CAPTURE SYSTEM.

2010-10-22 04:36:08 Montreal

EXTRUSION AND EMPTINESS- As surface, skin was once the beginning of the world and simultaneously the boundary of the self. But now stretched, pierced and penetrated by technology, the skin is no longer the smooth and sensuous surface of a site or a screen.

2010-10-22 04:46:17 Montreal

2010-10-22 08:19:10 Moscow  
 2010-10-22 08:30:44 Moscow  
 2010-10-22 08:30:46 Moscow  
 2010-10-22 08:30:55 Moscow  
 2010-10-22 08:30:59 Moscow  
 2010-10-22 08:31:08 Moscow  
 2010-10-22 08:35:05 Moscow  
 2010-10-22 08:35:07 Moscow  
 2010-10-22 08:35:09 Moscow  
 2010-10-22 08:35:12 Moscow  
 2010-10-22 08:35:18 Moscow  
 2010-10-22 08:35:21 Moscow  
 2010-10-22 08:35:24 Moscow  
 2010-10-22 08:35:29 Moscow  
 2010-10-22 08:35:34 Moscow  
 2010-10-22 08:35:46 Moscow  
 2010-10-22 08:35:48 Moscow  
 2010-10-22 09:11:34 Aalborg

Godunov  
 high 29  
 Val contended that  
 is you are about,  
 Canada  
 valcom  
 -Montana  
 title  
 title  
 fight  
 dns  
 TV ads  
 do it  
 PBX  
 Canada  
 that is  
 all  
 new

2010-10-22 09:11:56	Aalborg	source
2010-10-22 09:12:14	Aalborg	boy who
2010-10-22 09:12:36	Aalborg	will come up the
2010-10-22 09:38:15	Aalborg	line on spending
2010-10-22 10:02:24	Moscow	white Moscow
2010-10-22 10:02:26	Moscow	-Moscow
2010-10-22 10:02:29	Moscow	high standard
2010-10-22 10:02:32	Moscow	spending on
2010-10-22 10:02:35	Moscow	spending on
2010-10-22 10:02:37	Moscow	standard
2010-10-22 10:02:39	Moscow	spammer
2010-10-22 10:02:41	Moscow	spent one
2010-10-22 10:02:43	Moscow	span Lang
2010-10-22 10:02:46	Moscow	spelling
2010-10-22 10:07:45	Aalborg	all
2010-10-22 10:38:44	Aalborg	that and other
2010-10-22 10:39:06	Aalborg	handheld by name is not
2010-10-22 10:39:22	Aalborg	this bill is named Daniel
2010-10-22 10:39:26	Aalborg	this girl's name is being cut
2010-10-22 10:39:47	Aalborg	this stuff name is the topic at
2010-10-22 11:09:06	Moscow	take
2010-10-22 11:09:08	Moscow	year
2010-10-22 11:15:17	Aalborg	the U.S.
2010-10-22 11:15:30	Aalborg	for an
2010-10-22 11:15:34	Aalborg	all
2010-10-22 11:15:50	Aalborg	10 F can I have
2010-10-22 11:22:09	Moscow	is that the martha's
2010-10-22 11:23:32	Moscow	instance
2010-10-22 11:23:41	Moscow	when
2010-10-22 11:23:51	Moscow	all you need to ease allow
2010-10-22 11:28:43	Anonymous	all you need is love

## 2.4 THE SPLIT BODY

2010-10-23 21:39:13	GuinnessSmoothie	and the third eye ;)
2010-10-23 22:21:34	Anonymous	listening to the traffic in a small town smothered by heat
2010-10-24 02:05:11	Anonymous	watching the Big Apple Circus on PBS
2010-10-24 04:51:40	Montreal	Meetings with Brian Massumi as well as with Arthur and Marilouise Kroker. Going to see a Jenny Holzer exhibition and a walk around the old part of the city.
2010-10-24 09:37:41	Aalborg	day to
2010-10-24 10:50:54	Anonymous	hej camilla
2010-10-24 10:51:35	Anonymous	Hi Camilla
2010-10-24 10:52:12	Anonymous	Hi Camilla, how are you?

2010-10-24 10:52:56	Aalborg	know
2010-10-24 10:54:53	Aalborg	I can not speak english
2010-10-24 10:57:28	Anonymous	I hope this will end up with a great assignment
2010-10-24 10:58:04	Aalborg	that you
2010-10-24 10:59:32	Nina	Why is there no computer in here
2010-10-24 11:02:22	Nina	Is there someone out there?
2010-10-24 11:03:38	Nina	How are you
2010-10-24 11:04:14	Camilla	I am writing
2010-10-24 11:04:47	Camilla	I am hungry
2010-10-24 11:05:32	Nina	there should be a chair in here

2010-10-21 10:33:56	qwert	love
2010-10-21 10:34:09	Moscow	no one
2010-10-21 10:34:11	Moscow	of the new
2010-10-21 10:34:27	Moscow	at one
2010-10-21 10:34:40	Moscow	point during the
2010-10-21 10:34:50	Anonymous	
2010-10-21 10:34:56	Aalborg	whom
2010-10-21 10:34:57	Moscow	stupid year
2010-10-21 10:35:01	Moscow	stupid
2010-10-21 10:35:05	Aalborg	have
2010-10-21 10:35:11	Moscow	starring
2010-10-21 10:35:13	Moscow	salary
2010-10-21 10:35:15	Moscow	salary
2010-10-21 10:35:22	Moscow	that have fallen
2010-10-21 10:35:24	Moscow	down its own
2010-10-21 10:35:27	Moscow	data phone
2010-10-21 10:35:31	Moscow	line of
2010-10-21 10:35:34	Moscow	lab
2010-10-21 10:35:37	Moscow	non
2010-10-21 10:35:39	Moscow	crazy
2010-10-21 10:35:41	Moscow	you are crazy
2010-10-21 10:35:46	Aalborg	one year
2010-10-21 10:37:22	Moscow	love
2010-10-21 10:37:26	Moscow	Ireland the
2010-10-21 10:37:30	Moscow	home are you
2010-10-21 10:37:34	Moscow	on long
2010-10-21 10:37:39	Moscow	long long as you
2010-10-21 10:37:43	Moscow	IE love you
2010-10-21 10:37:47	Moscow	I love you
2010-10-21 10:38:03	Moscow	and your
2010-10-21 10:38:07	Moscow	and zero
2010-10-21 10:38:14	Moscow	and then you
2010-10-21 10:38:23	Moscow	are
2010-10-21 10:38:29	Moscow	noon

2010-10-21 10:38:50	Moscow	blah blah blah blah
2010-10-21 10:38:53	Moscow	it is going to
2010-10-21 10:39:00	Moscow	be as going to
2010-10-21 10:39:06	Moscow	the ms colleague, it\'s going to
2010-10-21 10:39:07	Moscow	the installer
2010-10-21 11:45:37	Moscow	has been actively
2010-10-21 11:45:39	Moscow	asked about the
2010-10-21 11:45:44	Moscow	SID has the backing
2010-10-21 11:45:46	Moscow	123
2010-10-21 11:45:51	Moscow	scheme skiing
2010-10-21 11:45:55	Moscow	by elements
2010-10-21 11:45:57	Aalborg	all
2010-10-21 11:45:58	Moscow	and NT
2010-10-21 11:46:03	Moscow	and NT
2010-10-21 11:46:16	Moscow	CBO as CBS
2010-10-21 11:46:18	Moscow	airline
2010-10-21 11:46:20	Moscow	Friday
2010-10-21 11:46:21	Moscow	I stammered
2010-10-21 11:47:03	Aalborg	us,
2010-10-21 11:53:09	Anonymous	hello\r\n
2010-10-21 11:53:13	Aalborg	and
2010-10-21 11:53:17	Aalborg	all
2010-10-21 11:53:22	Aalborg	along
2010-10-21 12:09:09	Aalborg	the way you\'ve been told by the year of the ground,
2010-10-21 12:09:10	Aalborg	and I
2010-10-21 12:09:16	Aalborg	call
2010-10-21 12:09:20	Aalborg	all
2010-10-21 12:09:33	Aalborg	mankind is once again I know
2010-10-20 02:36:07	Montreal	Circulating flesh, bodies are blurring. Near dead bodies need not die, dead bodies need not decompose. This is an age of the cadaver, the comatose and the chimera.
2010-10-20 02:36:13	Aalborg	long
2010-10-20 02:36:20	Aalborg	room and love you
2010-10-20 02:36:22	Aalborg	and me,
2010-10-20 02:36:25	Aalborg	and E, or
2010-10-20 02:36:32	Aalborg	long
2010-10-20 02:36:35	Aalborg	where
2010-10-20 02:36:37	Aalborg	long
2010-10-20 03:04:47	Montreal	Hi Paris and Moscow- turn down the volume of the speakers so you minimise (but not completely eliminate) the \"feedback\". At present it seems that the more meaningful contributions are hidden in lines of often just single words. \"Feedback\" of several lines would suffice.

2010-10-20 03:04:50	Aalborg	long
2010-10-20 03:04:55	Aalborg	, there, along
2010-10-20 03:04:59	Aalborg	with all of you for a long
2010-10-20 03:05:05	Aalborg	long
2010-10-20 03:05:09	Aalborg	he or
2010-10-20 03:05:12	Aalborg	his or
2010-10-20 03:05:14	Aalborg	a long
2010-10-20 03:05:18	Aalborg	haul
2010-10-20 03:05:19	Aalborg	along
2010-10-20 03:05:24	Aalborg	along
2010-10-20 04:02:36	Montreal	The Internet Ear was developed specifically for the exhibition "Biotopia - Art in the Wet Zone" in the context PORT 20:10 Festival of Contemporary Art and Social Technology, October 15, 2010 - January 10 , 2011 in Aalborg, Denmark.

## 2.5 BIOTOPIA(n) EAR

2010-10-20 16:04:00	Anonymous paris	Hello Mr Stlarc \r\nquelle est la suite des opérations\r\nWhich is the continuation of the operations
2010-10-20 16:04:19	Aalborg	, a year or the groove or you are and where are
2010-10-20 16:13:10	paris	mal
2010-10-20 17:23:55	paris	Ours noir Aalborg ? demain
2010-10-20 18:02:21	Anonymous	what do you hear ear?
2010-10-24 17:07:14	Montreal	Having coffee with Arthur and Marilouise Kroker in old Montreal
2010-10-24 17:08:58	Visite	
2010-10-24 17:13:54	Arthur kroker	Visited the Jenny Holtzer exhibition. Had certain misgivings about the strange complicity of art in the commemorative space of the machinery of torture.
2010-10-24 19:29:31	Stelarc	Chatting with Brian and Erin
2010-10-25 06:01:41	C.I.T.	is the log
2010-10-25 06:01:56	C.I.T.	long
2010-10-25 06:02:23	C.I.T.	owned and black
2010-10-25 06:02:59	C.I.T.	Iraqi here are some
2010-10-25 06:03:19	C.I.T.	key is a truly
2010-10-25 08:18:32	Moscow	Moscow\'s being
2010-10-25 08:18:35	Moscow	monument
2010-10-25 08:18:41	Moscow	to go into more lenient
2010-10-25 08:18:45	Moscow	good money
2010-10-25 08:45:02	C.I.T.	call
2010-10-25 10:02:09	THORIVOS	MENIMOLTANT AKOUW\r\n\r\nERXOMAI
2010-10-25 10:33:59	Moscow	Mr. Mas: speaking
2010-10-25 10:34:02	Moscow	to stay in
2010-10-25 10:34:08	Moscow	seen as

2010-10-25 10:34:10	Moscow	six months
2010-10-25 10:34:14	Moscow	since the
2010-10-25 11:36:25	Moscow	bet is
2010-10-25 11:36:33	Moscow	that in mind
2010-10-25 14:09:24	Moscow	if the EU
2010-10-25 14:22:05	Moscow	the latest
2010-10-25 14:22:13	Moscow	visit as if
2010-10-25 14:22:19	Moscow	he\'s
2010-10-25 14:22:40	Moscow	what\'s at issue
2010-10-25 14:22:55	Moscow	was not
2010-10-25 14:23:03	Moscow	his
2010-10-25 14:23:08	Moscow	philosophy is trying to
2010-10-25 14:23:12	Moscow	use
2010-10-25 14:23:15	Moscow	some of my face
2010-10-25 14:23:24	Moscow	290 NFS
2010-10-25 14:23:30	Moscow	next race is
2010-10-25 14:23:40	Moscow	home club
2010-10-25 14:23:49	Moscow	his
2010-10-25 14:24:13	Moscow	this is our fastest film
2010-10-25 14:24:16	Moscow	about the death penalty and
2010-10-25 14:24:20	Moscow	his
2010-10-25 14:24:21	Moscow	office
2010-10-25 14:28:00	Moscow	this
2010-10-25 14:28:03	Moscow	chief of
2010-10-25 14:28:32	Moscow	the S.F. hand
2010-10-25 14:30:17	Moscow	that uses
2010-10-25 14:30:19	Moscow	as fast as
2010-10-25 16:02:58	Moscow	the now
2010-10-25 16:03:04	Moscow	see you tomorrow
2010-10-25 16:03:09	Moscow	night
2010-10-25 16:03:16	Anonymous	I found this on the train
2010-10-25 18:40:40	C.I.T.	that have
2010-10-25 18:41:06	C.I.T.	of the body
2010-10-25 18:41:41	Montreal	The FLOATING HEAD installation will open at Usine C in Montreal at 1:00 pm. This is a collaboration between Stelarc and NXI Gestatio (Nicolas Reeves and David St-Onge).
2010-10-25 18:42:09	C.I.T.	accident
2010-10-25 18:42:21	C.I.T.	no acts sale and
2010-10-25 18:42:33	C.I.T.	a new monthly O
2010-10-25 18:42:42	C.I.T.	on the all
2010-10-25 18:43:08	C.I.T.	of Italy are the
2010-10-25 18:43:40	C.I.T.	I\'m going to have a
2010-10-25 18:44:27	Montreal	It\'s raining here today. The Krokors are returning to Victoria tomorrow.
2010-10-25 18:44:46	C.I.T.	raining and Denmark to

2010-10-25 18:45:43	C.I.T.	your I
2010-10-25 18:46:20	C.I.T.	Altman
2010-10-25 18:46:33	C.I.T.	as the eye and a
2010-10-25 18:47:51	Montreal	Is it raining very heavily in Copenhagen? We got very wet returning from lunch half an hour ago.
2010-10-25 18:48:07	C.I.T.	walk through
2010-10-25 18:48:11	C.I.T.	what you owe a lot
2010-10-25 18:48:18	C.I.T.	and a
2010-10-25 18:48:30	C.I.T.	woman who
2010-10-25 18:49:46	C.I.T.	are the
2010-10-25 18:50:20	C.I.T.	yen or are in the
2010-10-25 18:50:30	C.I.T.	era
2010-10-25 18:51:39	C.I.T.	000 or
2010-10-25 18:52:14	C.I.T.	London or
2010-10-25 18:52:45	C.I.T.	would you like and who
2010-10-25 18:54:07	C.I.T.	will move or
2010-10-25 18:54:17	C.I.T.	you and
2010-10-25 18:54:22	C.I.T.	early
2010-10-25 18:54:40	C.I.T.	youths called mood knowing MMR
2010-10-25 18:54:58	C.I.T.	wintertime and a lot
2010-10-25 18:58:06	C.I.T.	of the rain had the Ukraine and you train
2010-10-25 18:58:27	C.I.T.	rain and rain and rain words went on
2010-10-25 19:00:57	C.I.T.	gondola. As an obvious Monday and
2010-10-25 19:01:09	C.I.T.	work with the notion of what were you
2010-10-25 19:01:41	C.I.T.	can't
2010-10-25 19:05:02	C.I.T.	Balloon <sup>2</sup>
2010-10-26 00:48:39	Montreal	The vision tracking system now works with the lowered cameras. The FLOATING HEAD installation is looking good, especially with the 10,000 ansi lumens projector.
2010-10-26 07:58:54	Pyewacket	(<>..<>)
2010-10-29 18:22:39	Erin	Hi Stelarc - great to see you! Sitting here with Leslie thinking about a tangent for Inflexions...
2010-10-29 18:22:53	Aalborg	and a
2010-10-29 18:22:59	Aalborg	long
2010-10-29 18:23:04	Aalborg	long
2010-10-29 20:18:08	Stelarc	Hi Erin, flying to London this evening. Great to see you and Brian. Way to go Leslie ha, ha...
2010-10-29 20:18:15	Aalborg	long
2010-10-29 20:18:19	Aalborg	long
2010-10-29 20:18:23	Aalborg	, and you are
2010-10-29 20:18:29	Aalborg	long
2010-10-29 20:18:34	Aalborg	long
2010-10-29 20:40:54	Montreal	4:25 pm near Concordia University thinking about

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<sup>2</sup> This passage is the Internet Ear listening to OK Computer by Radiohead.

inverse embodiment, atoms up, inside out.  
Structures in cellular spaces with nano-sensor  
surveillance.

### **Fractal / Phantom Conversations – by Stelarc.**

We are living in an age of excess and indifference. Of uncertainty and ambivalence. Of prosthetic augmentation and extended operational systems. An age of **ORGANS WITHOUT BODIES**. Of organs awaiting bodies. There is now a proliferation of biocompatible components in both substance and scale that allows technology to be attached and implanted into the body. Bodies are blurring. Bodies are no longer fully alive (pacified and pierced with prosthetics) nor really dead (no longer needing to decompose). Bodies are blurring. Flesh is circulating, **FRACTAL** and **PHANTOM** flesh is proliferating.

By Fractal Flesh, I mean bodies and bits of bodies spatially separated but electronically connected generating recurring patterns of interactivity at varying scales. And by Phantom Flesh, I not only mean avatars, but with the increasing proliferation of haptic devices on the internet we will be able to generate more potent physical presences of remote bodies.

Blood flowing in your body today might be circulating in my body tomorrow. An artificial heart circulates blood without pumping. A person is alive but the heart does not beat. We can take the skin cell from an impotent male and reengineer it into a sperm cell. More interestingly, the skin cell from a female body might be made into sperm cell.

Organs are extracted and exchanged. Organs are engineered and inserted. Limbs can be reattached and reanimated. The face of a donor body becomes a third face on the recipient. Cadavers can be preserved forever with plastination whilst comatose bodies can be sustained indefinitely on life-support systems.

Cryogenically suspended bodies await reanimation at some imagined future. Ova are fertilized by sperm that was frozen. Partially living entities are engineered in-vitro. The dead, the near-dead, the undead and the yet to be born now exist simultaneously.

This is the age of the **CADAVER**, the **COMATOSE** and the **CHIMERA**. Of proliferating liminal spaces where what becomes important is no longer what it means to be alive, but rather what constitutes being dead. The chimera is the body that performs with mixed realities. A biological body, augmented with technology and telematically performing with virtual systems. The chimera is an alternate embodiment. An extended operational system that performs simultaneously as a **SPLIT BODY**. Simultaneously becoming a possessed and performing body.

Voltage-in/Voltage-out. The body acts with indifference. Indifference as opposed to expectation. An indifference that allows something other to occur, that allows an unfolding- in its

own time and with its own rhythm. An indifference that allows the body to be suspended with hooks into its skin, that allows an inserting of a sculpture into its stomach and that allows a ear to be surgically constructed and stem-cell grown on its arm.

With an implanted microphone connected to a wireless transmitter, internet enables the ear in any wifi hotspot. The EAR ON ARM becomes a mobile and accessible organ for people in other places. And perhaps what is now needed is not a Second Life, but rather a THIRD LIFE.

Instead of avatars being prompted, a human body might be interfaced, accessed and actuated by its avatar. An INVERSE MOTION-CAPTURE SYSTEM where a human body becomes the host for an avatar, where a human body becomes a surrogate body, a prosthesis that manifests the movements and emotions of an artificial and intelligent entity in Real Life.

At present, the artist is surgically constructing and cell-growing an ear on his arm. The EAR ON ARM is still a work in progress. Further surgical procedures are need to lift the helix, creating a conch and growing a soft ear lobe with the artist's extracted adult stem cells. Once a 3D structure of an ear is achieved, a small microphone will be embedded in the ear that connected to a wireless transmitter and server will Internet enable the ear, allowing people in other places to listen in to what the ear is hearing.

Credits:

INTERNET EAR is an installation that has been generated by the EAR ON ARM project and alludes to this work in progress. It will be simultaneously an intimate and extended interaction that explores the dynamics of sound as an internationally circulating and connecting experience.

Curator and conceptual co-development of the Internet Arm Project: Morten Søndergaard, DK.

Technological and conceptual co-development: Mogens Jacobsen, DK

Cast and copies of Stelarc's arm: Olivier Goulet, FR.

International Venues:

La Cantine, Paris. <http://lacantine.org>. Curators in Paris: Artifist Collectif

LABORATORIA Art&Science Space, Moscow, Russia. Organizers: LABORATORIA Art&Science Space (Moscow) and The National Centre for Contemporary Arts (Kaliningrad branch, Russia); Curator in Moscow: Dmitry Bulatov.

Utzon Centre, Aalborg, Denmark. Biotopia - Art in the Wet Zone.