

# Maria Papadomanolaki

*Buskers* (2008-)



*Buskers* is a collection of recordings of chance encounters with street musicians across different countries and cities. A busker is an entertainer but also an opening to something else: a voice that invites reflection, standing still, or moving against. A busker creates an atmosphere for echoing, reverberating and reactivating the urban spaces we pass through. A street musician can be thought of as a pure and vivid manifestation of a city's freeform and, most of the time, underground, unacknowledged creative fauna. Documenting the beauty of these artists proves to be a difficult task because of their fleeting nature. Most of the recordings featured in this collection were done while travelling using in-ear binaural microphones.

The following recordings have been included in the mix for PARABOL:

1) Whistling Blind Busker at Canary Wharf Jubilee Line Station (September 2008)

A recording of a blind busker standing right next to the entrance of Canary Wharf Jubilee Line Station. It's quite unusual interaction mainly because I could not see but only hear the whistling. I tried to choreograph the moment of finding and slowly moving away from him.

2) Laterna and Santouri at Ermou Street, Athens, Pt 1 and 2 (April 2008)

These recordings were made in April 2008 at Ermou Street, one of the busiest and yet most beautiful streets in Athens. The sound of the santouri and the out-of-tune laterna elegantly echo across the busy street and become more prominent as I approach them.

3) Guitarist in Dupont Circle, Washington, DC (March 2011)

In March 2011, I did a brief visit to Washington, DC. This guitarist stood out for me mainly because I could not initially see him and the acoustics of the space he was performing in were masking his sound in a way that you couldn't hear it from a distance.

4) Percussionist/Dancer in Times Square NY Metro Station (2010)

This is a recording of an African-American artist in Time Square Metro Station, inviting passers-by to stop and dance. It was made in summer 2010; I cannot recall the exact month.

5) Chinese Bowed Instrument at Pike Place Market, Seattle, WA (September 2012)

I did this recording in September 2012 outside one of the main entrances at Pike Place Market whilst visiting Seattle for Decibel Festival. This Chinese bowed instrument echoed around the market, fragile and hard to trace among the busy market stalls and loud restaurants.

6) Guitarist at Kingsland SC car park, London, UK (December 2012)

Recorded in December 2012, during some field recording visits in Dalston and Hackney. The guitarist chose an unusual spot on the staircase leading to Kingsland Shopping Centre car park, between supermarket trolleys, car engines and loud sound systems.

**Maria Papadomanolaki** is a Greek sound practitioner and researcher currently based in London. Her work and research focus on creating collaborative listening experiences in sites within the urban environment that are associated with migration, transience and change. In the form of either conversational and telematic soundwalks, outdoor listening events, installations, durational broadcasts or exploratory workshops, Papadomanolaki is interested in activating, within the sites in question, a perceptual sonic ecology that can enrich our inherent potential as listeners and question, through sound, our certainties and perceptual finitudes in relation to our surroundings. She has presented her work and research at galleries, conferences and festivals in Europe, UK and the US, holding a PhD on Sonic Perceptual Ecologies at CRiSAP, UAL, London. She is the co-editor of the publications *Transmission Arts: Artists & Airwaves* (PAJ Publications, 2011), *sounds remote* (SoundCamp/Uniformbooks, 2016) and is the producer of *Sensing Cities*, an ongoing series of interviews broadcast on Resonance FM.

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*Presented by Stiftelsen 3,14, PARABOL situates an adjacent ambience and mode of address in dialogue with the gallery's exhibitions.*

*Organised by Johnny Herbert*