

***Discipline* (2011)**

**Matt Rogalsky**

**Sound installation with live twelve modified electric guitars, live classic rock radio station, custom frequency analysis software, power amplifiers with step-up transformers.**

*Discipline* focuses on electric guitar as the iconic instrument of the 20th century and an object of obsession. The model of guitar used in the installation — twelve of them, no brand name needing to be mentioned — was designed in 1954 and remains unchanged as a staple of rock and pop musicians worldwide.

In the installation, each guitar is tuned to a single pitch class, so the twelve together represent the 12 tone equal tempered scale. The guitars are invisibly played by wiring their pickups in reverse, with the driving signal being custom software which analyzes a live classic rock radio station. Each guitar "sings" only in the presence of its pitch class in the radio signal, so the twelve together create a shifting resonance which shadows the songs being played live on air. The radio station is not heard directly—only via the guitars.

The piece has several reference points, including the "boy culture" of guitar-store shredding on ubiquitous all-too-familiar riffs, Robert Fripp's "guitar craft" approach to mastering the instrument (*Discipline* is also the title of a King Crimson album and song), and the apostle-like devotion which is often accorded the electric guitar and the canon of classic rock.

**About the accompanying audio documentation**

Recording from 2016 exhibition at Galerie des arts visuels, Laval University, Québec City.



Mercer Union Gallery  
2012, Toronto Ontario





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