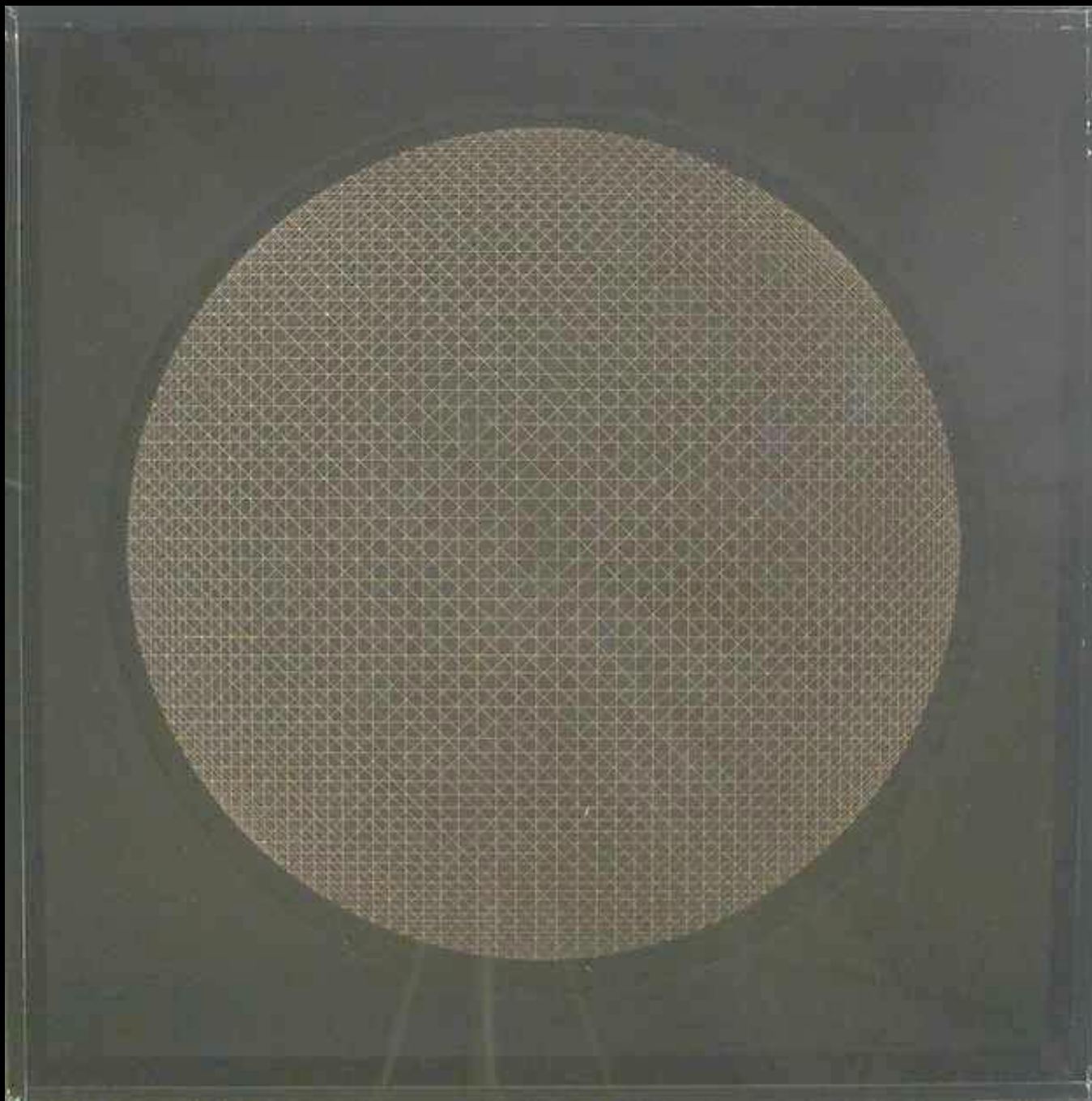


EUROPE IN C  
Athens, 25.06.2019  
lecture

minimal music  
&  
Terry Riley „in C“

Prof. Dr. Yvonne Wasserloos  
hmt / University of Music and Theatre  
Rostock



Ludwig Wilding

Kinetisches  
Objekt, 1967

# MUSIC

- Time as main part of the art of music
- No sound, no music
- Gone immediately after last tone
- Senses: unable to see, smell, taste BUT hear
- Can't touch but will be touched

STEVE REICH (\* 1936)

Music for 18 Musicians  
(1974-1976)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=02hnXKDR4tg>

- Rhythm = center of structure
  - Simple harmonical process
  - Simple melodical process
  - tonality
- > Counterpart in regard to music of the 20th century
- Short parts of melody and rhythm = PATTERNS
  - Permanent repetition of patterns = form of music
  - Change and development of music in „slow motion“

LA MONTE YOUNG (\* 1935)

DREAM HOUSE

- > 1966: continuous electronic sound environment at La Monte Youngs Loft, Church Street, New York
- Sound of sinus-waves and music by „Theatre of eternal music“



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WY3U\\_bVsbPs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WY3U_bVsbPs)

The Dream House – Sound and light environment, New York

## Impact:

- Meditation
- Influence on mind and body
- Not listening to music and structures (1st/2nd subject or theme)
- Listening to music and experience of music, moods
- Following emotions, not rationality

## MAIN GOAL OF MINIMALISM:

- MUSIC WITHOUT TIME-FRAME
- EXPANSION OF TIME
- HYPNOSIS
- TRANCE



## minimal music and listeners

- Knowledge not necessarily needed (in contrast to Contemporary Music/Neue Musik)
- „My music, ist tonal, melodical and harmonical landsape shoud be experienced from different points of views and angles of listening“ (Riley)
- Process of hearing and enjoying music as main goals of minimal music

„Music as a journey!“  
(Terry Riley)

TERRY RILEY

in C

(1964)

# Minimal Music – Inspiration

## Asia (India):

- Terry Riley experience of Ragas (teacher: Pandith Pran Nath ):
- Raga: special setting of lines of tones, musicians do improvisation on that setting
- Could last as long as one wants to

## Africa

- > Steve Reich: studies African Drumming at Institute of African Studies at Ghana

# Protest

- Against virtuosity
- Against hierarchy while playing music
  - orchestra – conductor – solo-player, tutti-player
  - free musicians, free to decide on their own, when to play, how to play
- Against typical structures of Western music (form of sonata, form of symphony etc.)
- Against THE ONE „last and final“ version of music (music and eternity)

in C

First performance: 1964 ,San Francisco Music Center

- Riley\_Technique: „pulse-piece“
- 53 patterns
- Instrumentation: free setting („the more the merrier“)
- Performance as a democratic process
- Singular performance, not repeatable