

A brief conversation with Dark Mofo artist Tim Bruniges

Tim Stone



Posted: Sunday, 16 June 2013 at 11:52am

A number of the artists in Dark Mofo's *Beam In Thine Own Eye*, a public art exhibition that opened to the public on Friday, are also accomplished musicians. Sydney-based Tim Bruniges is one of the artists who knows a lot about the distortion of sound.

Others include Ryoji Ikeda (*SPECTRA [Tasmania]*) and Gregorio Zanon (*Music in the Room*) whose installation housed in MAC1's the temporary exhibition space on Hobart's waterfront seeks to manipulate the perception of time and space through the distortion of sound and light.

Tim Bruniges is a founding member of the band The Dead Sea. He's also written scores for film and television and says much of his practice is about trying to find ambiguities with time.

"My background is as a musician and part of my frustrations from moving from music to visual art is about finding ways to work in more temporarily ambiguous situations," says Bruniges.

Bruniges' art installation, *Continuum*, consists of two main elements: a quadraphonic sound system of a falling drone, and a projection of a low luminosity blue circle that slowly oscillates.

The sound element employs an auditory illusion called a Shepard tone. It uses clusters of falling harmonics to trick the ear into thinking the pitch is continually falling.

Bruniges describes the work as "quasi scientifically informed."

"The work never resolves, it never ends, it really just explores the interplay between light and sound," he says. "This work is literally infinite, it doesn't loop in any sense, it starts and never ends."

Tim Bruniges has shown *Continuum* (<http://www.timbruniges.com/continuum.php>) in very different environments in Sydney, Melbourne and now Hobart; the former were rough and ready factory settings. In Hobart it has been installed in more manicured space of MAC1. MONA curator Nicole Durling first saw Bruniges' piece when it was on show as a finalist in the 2012 Newport Substation Art Prize in Melbourne. Although Bruniges didn't win the \$10,000 prize he was later approached by Durling to participate as the only Australian artist in *Beam In Thine Own Eye*.

"The biggest challenge with this work is ensuring that the space is dark black black, and I guess in all three occasions I feel like I've got 90% of the way there," says Bruniges.

"I'm trying to do something that is zero visibility which obviously has a lot of challenges when you're feeding thousands of people through it [an exhibition of this size]."

"Shows like this are hard to talk about in a way that isn't just talking about the mechanism of perception." he says.

- *Tim Stone*

Tim Bruniges Continuum is on as part of Dark Mofo's (<http://www.darkmofo.net.au/>) *Beam In Thine Own Eye* June 13 - July 28 at MAC1, Hunter Street Hobart.

Related content

Read >> (<http://www.abc.net.au/arts/stories/s3782288.htm>) Artists cover Hobart in white light for the opening of Dark Mofo