

PRESS RELEASE

BILL FONTANA

Speeds of Time

18 March, 10.00 – 22.00



Bill Fontana (born 1947, USA) is internationally known for his pioneering experiments in sound. For his first major London show, Haunch of Venison will present *Speeds of Time*, 2004 a musical deconstruction of Big Ben, the world's most famous acoustic icon. *Speeds of Time* is a twelve hour sound sculpture, and will run for one day only, 18 March from 10.00 until 22.00, as it tracks the movement of the internal workings of Big Ben.

Fontana is interested in transforming the aural environment, and uses the physical environment as a living source of musical information whose aesthetic and evocative qualities conjure visual imagery in the mind of the listener. Since his breakthrough work, *Kirribilli Wharf*, 1976, Fontana has developed a practice based in real time recordings of natural and man made events that he recontextualises by representing them in different locations.

Speeds of Time is an eight channel recording that covers the entire 12 hour cycle of the bells and the clockwork of Big Ben. Live sensors and microphones were mounted on the clockwork mechanism and near the bells to generate a spatial-acoustic composition which through the use of acoustic delays and repetitions, generates a musical universe in which the ticking and the bells move in changing asymmetrical orbits.

Fontana graduated with a B.A. from the New School for Social Research, New York in 1970 and studied at the Cleveland Institute of Music in 1967. He has received numerous fellowships, including the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation fellowship in 1986. Fontana has presented sound sculptures at the Reina Sofia in Madrid, the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, the Museum Ludwig in Cologne, and the San Francisco Museum of Art. In 2004, *Primal Soundings*, a permanent installation was unveiled at Leeds City Art Gallery. Later in 2005, *Pigeon Soundings*, a site-specific installation will be presented at the new Kolumba Museum in Cologne. Fontana lives and works in San Francisco. This project has been generously supported by Meyer Sound - www.meyersound.com.

For further information please contact Calum Sutton, Haunch of Venison

Call +44 20 7495 5050 or Email calum@haunchofvenison.com