

Two Noises.

First

I think the “taking” of an existing aesthetic/philosophy, one of a totalizing dialectics of the historic and social, and using it as a framework for a singular therapy – one where dialectics and schizophrenics is combined, is both legitimate and understandable within post-modernity. Its equally understandable that these should then be projected onto some existing genre which has accepted credentials, though this projection is not a re-territorialization.

The musical genre noise, along with noise musicians is a derivative of popular culture which needs little or no elaboration. Jazz, pop, punk, industrial and the various shades of metal....doom gloom protest and angst.

Second

Forget music. Forget sound.

Noise as “data without information” is a phenomenon which requires no particular substrate. Air, electronics etc. Or is it a “philosophy”. It’s a very simple fact of communication. With sound art Cage was probably the wisest to approach and abandon noise as such, in that his mistake was to pursue silence, and in his terms it was an impossibility.

However within computer science noise is seen as the obvious brake in the context of a machine code instruction. Attempts to execute data, data as an address or an instruction code as either inevitably results in the infamous “you have attempted to perform an illegal operation” or “attempted to access an illegal address”. Once the bit strings context is broken meaningless nonsense ensues.

This simple insight shows that all language structures are vulnerable to a collapse into meaningless nonsense. A forgotten language is dead. How then noise in culture? Again – this is simple- where over complexity, misunderstanding, incompetence or deliberation destroys the semantics and syntax. A car crash can be accidental or deliberate. The effects remain unaltered by its intention. Such a “crash” overwrites meaning and so cause. Whether by intention or accident the destruction of a system (of communication, of visual or auditory, scientific, philosophic etc) is the same. A chaos which is no different to natural phenomenon.

In very simple terms. One may need skill and intelligence to solve a puzzle (of life or mathematics or sudoku) – one needs no intelligence at all to fail to solve it. To work out correctly an equation is difficult, prone to error, to provide an incorrect answer requires no skill whatsoever.