

Texturen

Multiple, 2008
Gerhard Eckel

32 boxes with 7 unique CDs each
published by *galerie stadtpark*
Krems an der Donau, Austria



Texturen (textures) is a numbered and signed edition of 32 cardboard boxes containing 7 audio compact disks. Each of the disks holds a 74-minute excerpt of one of 7 infinite, algorithmically composed sound textures. Each box contains different excerpts. In total the edition comprises 224 unique CDs. Each disk is subdivided in 99 tracks without pauses separating them, allowing for a seamless playback. Besides the 7 disks, each box contains a label identifying the copy. The CDs are unlabeled and thus completely undistinguishable.





The only way to relate to these disks is to listen to them. No information biases the listening experience. We do not know what to expect. The work is performed by selecting a disk at random and exposing oneself to the austere qualities of slowly evolving repetitive sonic patterns. Each texture affords a particular listening attitude, making the audience conscious of their expectations and listening habits. The work's sonic content and its visual presentation are designed to expose the performativity of the act of listening.



Texturen can also be read as a comment on our way to consume music distributed on compact disk. This format is currently being superseded by portable media players, where album and track selection become more and more automated, thus incurring a shift in the performativity of listening. The track structure of the disks offers a mode of browsing the textures by skipping through them, allowing to navigate the evolution of the textures on another time scale (each track lasts for 44.8 seconds).

