

SOUNDS OF LOSS

A worldwide audio intervention for september 21st, World Peace Day.

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On September 21st of each year, World Peace Day is commemorated worldwide.

By the UN and it's general assembly. By institutions and governments worldwide. And last but not least by all humans opposed to the idea of war, or moved by the destruction, grief and losses brought about by war. Unfathomable losses, death, destruction and grief.

And yet, there is a war around the globe at any given time.

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For September 21st of any given year, I would like to propose an art project for any city, for media, public transport, theatres, cinemas, museums and art events, schools and universities. And, last but not least, the UN and governments and their buildings around the globe.

SOUNDS OF LOSS.

1,200 to 1,500 individually recorded simple clicking or tapping sounds – one for each person killed – will be heard in all these locations and media during the 49 hours of global September 21st, starting in Kiribati 13 hours before GMT, and ending in Baker Island 12 hours after GMT.

One click: One woman, one man or one child killed by war at this moment. During World Peace Day.

A simple project.

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Statistically at least 550 persons are killed every day in one of the world's wars in 2026.

This means that during each hour of the upcoming 21st of September 2026 22.92 persons will lose their life due to war. They may be declared as "eliminated", "neutralized", "put out of actions" etc: they are being killed.

Victims of one of the many wars simultaneously raging across our globe.

"Click."

A clicking sound on average every 2.62 minutes, unevenly spread in time, an acoustical intervention spelling out this statistical truth. Rendered clearly audible in a radio program, a subway, in the theatre, at a holy mass, a lecture, a mosque, a synagogue, a museum, an art show, a concert or an opera. Whichever space or venue you may imagine.

War is a dynamic happening.

The clicks therefore will not be heard regularly. They will rather be heard in irregular intervals, sometimes forming small clusters, sometimes being absent for a while. Only to return in an outburst, followed by silence.

Like irregularly falling dewdrops.

The volume of these acoustical events differs. Some are loud, others soft, some are very loud. This difference in volumes reflects the fact that human compassion is a highly biased mechanism. We tend to feel much more

empathy for victims of our own culture, religion, skin colour. Sadly, this is reflected to a high degree by media coverage of all wars.

The project acoustically registers all humans killed in wars worldwide. It will not differentiate between the parties involved, nor differentiate between killings of civilian or military personnel. The killing of humans stands at the very centre of war. No human deserves to be killed. This basic understanding is represented here.

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Over the last years we have come to accept the fact of war as a backdrop to our lives. After a relatively long period of seemingly worldwide peace, war has stepped back onto the scene as though it were a given fact. It is not. War is the consequence of decisions, politics, human action. Just as war can be started and waged, war can be stopped, slowed down and ultimately brought to an end.

Our conscious perception has learned to suppress the omnipresence of war, just as good headphones will cancel out the noises around us. It's a defence mechanism which works well.

Unconscious perception is said to be the deepest. The acoustical intervention of clicks spread out over an extended range of time will gradually slip into the unconscious perception of the audiences. Thus creating an awareness of World Peace Day.

An awareness not just for the importance of peace, but equally for the fact that we can achieve peace.

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The project does not attempt to be an event in itself.

Rather it is an intrusion into the ongoing events of that day. No change of programme is required. A series of acoustic events will be added to an ongoing debate, theatre play, holy service, concert, news report. Occurring along these daily events. Just as we came to live our lives perfectly normal during a time of global wars.

These small and unforeseeable acoustical intrusions may seem to disturb a lecture, a museum walk, a film, a dinner, a trainride, the ongoing debate of a parliaments or the UN.

But being killed by war far more disrupts the plans and routines of those who just are no more.

"Click"

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The cathedral of **St. John the Divine**, NYC, largest cathedral of North America, endorses the project and will present the audio intervention on **UN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE**. Traditionally a speech by the incoming **president of the UN General Assembly** is given in the cathedral. This year **SOUNDS OF LOSS** will form the backdrop to his speech on September 20th.

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SOUNDSOFLOSS.com

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Philip Gröning