

# Six memos for a pianist and a self-playing piano

## Sketches on an artistic investigation of spatial phenomena

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Fig. Video still from 'consistency'

## Abstract

In this article we share sketches from our research process investigating spatial qualities in a specific set of audio-corporeal practices, within the context of the artistic research project 'Atlas of Smooth Spaces'.<sup>1</sup> We are particularly interested in those emergent qualities of space that exist outside of—but not without—the performer, and seek to develop concepts and methods for mapping them effectively. Based on the premise that we can never capture and notate these spatial qualities from one singular perspective, we made a point to produce descriptions from different disciplinary perspectives. The following sketches give insight into six case studies 'for a pianist and the self-playing piano' which were conducted by pianist and eurhythmician Hanne Pilgrim, composer Adrián Artacho, complexity scientist Leonhard Horstmeyer and music theater director and video artist Markus Kupferblum. Each one of the audiovisual pieces ("six memos") created by the team in the course of our artistic investigations is seen as an intermediate step in the process of approaching our research goal of notating, creating and communicating audio-corporeal space phenomena. The text guides the reader through the artistic research methods and tools set in pace by means of excursions into various disciplinary fields such as piano performance, physics and technology-mediated performance.



The audio-visual output of the project, the cycle "Six memos for a pianist and a self-playing piano" consists of six video pieces presenting each of the case studies. The video playlist can be accessed using the QR code on the left side of this paragraph.

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