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The Interaction of Movement and Sound

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Sheldon Jackson
Artist Statement

I have always been interested in the science of acoustic sound. Of course like most young children, I started only looking at sound from the receiver's stand point. Moving on to playing instruments, and producing music really opened the door for me to view sound in more complex way, as you will hear throughout the gallery space. I started dancing at a really young age as well, and one of the biggest components of dance is music. When I started trying to find connections between the two is when I was really able to dissect and analyze the art that would come of such beautiful and natural harmony.

The videos in this show are fairly straight forward, until you take into consideration these concepts. Firstly, I want my audience to be attentive to the idea of musicality. There is a strong emphasis on musicality in the video pieces. Knowing that sound travels at a certain speed under certain conditions, I see musicality through dance as an almost abstract way of measuring how fast sound moves from its original source, to me. The second concept I wanted to make sure I touched upon was animation. For those who don't know, aside from its traditional connotations, animation is a style of dance that is based on the actual definition of the word, which generally means to instill with life. Ideally, the dancer should embody the life of the music they're dancing to, and when something has life... it moves. So the next concept one should take into consideration when viewing the videos, is of course, movement. We already know that dance is a form of movement, so with that in mind, I knew that I would have to convey the embodiment of sound through movement with a different medium, than just dance alone.

This is the point where I leave you (the spectator) to connect the paintings with the videos. The major thing to look at when finding connections between these mediums is flow. Certain brush strokes in the paintings illustrate and correspond with the flow of isolated movements demonstrated by the dancers in the videos. I also place emphasis on the idea of shape. Some questions to think about are, what shapes do the figures themselves embody? How do the shapes and colors in the background highlight, and engage with the figures?

Overall, my goal is to encourage people to think more about how the music we listen to can introduce us to a whole new way of perceiving our physical selves in a space. Music often allows us, and sometimes forces us to reflect on our lives and past experiences, and when I make my own music, I take my own experiences into deep consideration.





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