seth ayyaz | composer, performer, sound artist, theorist

biography | short

Seth Ayyaz is a composer-performer, sound artist and transdisciplinary theorist based in London (UK). He makes exploratory musics with listening machines, human or otherwise, and is active across experimental, improvisation and contemporary music scenes.

His research interests include the politics of sound, cybernetics and the material construction of listening by biological, psychological and social processes. Of Mauritian heritage, he has recorded and studied Islamic traditions across the MENASA regions. His works offer counter-narratives to current metaphors of cultural exchange and hybridity, instead foregrounding areas of friction, displacement and translation.

His work and thinking spans spatial composition, live electronics, bass culture, improvisation, installation, diasporic Islamic musics, auditory neurosciences, psychoanalysis, computational technologies, and materialist philosophy. He has published and spoken widely on these topics (including for The Wire, Organised Sound and Afterall).

Ayyaz holds a PhD in electroacoustic composition from City University London and post-graduate studies in psychiatry, neurosciences, psychology, contemporary psychoanalysis and philosophy of mind.

He has presented work internationally, including at Cafe Oto and ICA (London), Maerz Music and Frankfurt Opera House (Germany), Sharjah Biennale (UAE), Irtijal (Lebanon), Sibelius Academy (Helsinki), Alte Schmiede (Austria) and Spor Festival (Denmark).

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