

## **FE** vocal fugue

### INSTALLATION OVERVIEW

#### **FE** background

*FE* is a 12-channel site-specific sound installation. Composed of women's voices and underpinned by acoustic and electronic instruments, *FE* fills a room with the sound of intimate but fragmented conversation. Touring the room at random reveals multiple and continuous linkages of speech, the tones of which are not normally heard in the public sphere. From the center of the room, the resulting environment is a diffuse, musical murmuring. As the listener moves about the space, particular stories come into focus. Thoughts heard cover a landscape of personal concerns: of time, its richness and evanescence; of gradual awakening; of travel and homeland; of the influence of others' lives; of dance, writing, theatre.

The voices in *FE* were drawn from dozens of conversations recorded with the artist. *FE* is a highly personal interpretation of the meanings and aspirations implicit in speech. It is an aural view of the wondering self. It is a series of recollections, remembrances, and visions of the future expressed in language that ranges from the mundane to the epiphanic.

The *FE* installation develops over time. Each channel loops separately in 20 – 30 minutes, and thus the mix of 'conversation' as well as the musical background of the room evolves during the course of the installation, never returning to its original state.

#### **NOTES** on the piece

*FE* is best shown in a small, dedicated space of about 12' x 16'. The installation can also be mounted in a grand oval in the center of a larger room. Visitors are free to walk anywhere within and without its bounds. Twelve satellite speakers are suspended from the ceiling in an oblong shape; visible snaking wires on the floor connect these units to electronics and a subwoofer at each end of the oblong, creating a 'shell' effect.

A custom mix (in both surround sound and stereo) of the installation is available on DVD. Edition of five, signed by the artist.

