

Shifting Monoliths: Unstable Noise and Bass



This research investigates the live performance practice looking at monolithic structures in sound, focusing on my use of immersive, room-filling bass frequencies and their impact on audience perception and experience. The performances are characterised by dense, overwhelming soundscapes that challenge conventional listening, often eliciting immediate, visceral reactions from audiences. Despite the sheer intensity of the sound, which may draw parallels to the harsh noise scene. My work as Dushume demonstrates constant nuance and variation. This exploration highlights how seemingly monolithic sound structures are revealed to be malleable, unstable, and subject to fluctuation.

Utilising a compact setup of minimal equipment, Dushume's precise manipulation of sound contrasts with the chaotic forces generated by the performance. The research contextualises my aesthetic approach within broader experimental sound art practices, emphasising how the methodology engages with notions of sonic instability and the fluid relationship between performer, sound, and audience. The investigation contributes to a deeper understanding of how noise and experimental sound performance can subvert traditional expectations and engage listeners in dynamic, evolving auditory experiences.

The above was part of the "Dark Energy Presents" programme at Café Oto, Tuesday 30th July 2024, 7.30pm.

DARK ENERGY PRESENTS...SHAMICA RUDDOCK + BANTU + DUSHUME +

DHANGSHA

Celebrating label Dark Energy's inaugural release, Bantu's debut album "Instability," four protagonists explore the juxtaposition of heavy bass with noise. Bantu himself presents deep modulations that simmer with a quiet rage, exploding unexpectedly into bit-crushed stutter and then abrupt silences. Shamica Ruddock posits disjointed and chaotic loops, broken and sometimes beyond repair, subby and disorientating. Dushume contributes menacing low-end frequencies, neither pulse nor drone, that envelop bodies like an impenetrable black fog. Dhangsha offers an industrial inflected dancehall which invariably collapses under sonic duress, with mutilated beats straddling the boundaries of good taste.