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## Getting Literal About 'Inner Beauty'

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On a recent afternoon in a corner of the downtown Brooklyn art and music venue Issue Project Room, musician Sergei Tcherepnin was busy installing a massage table. This was no professional set-up, though. Mr. Tcherepnin, an artist-in-residence at IPR, arranged three chunks of marble on the ground, set a five-foot slab of plywood atop them, and attached a six-inch surface transducer (which looks and acts like a speaker cone) to the underside of the board.

Then he draped a cloth over the whole thing and invited a reporter to experience his "Massage Performance," which plays a six-channel electronic-music composition through the participant's body. The effect was somewhere between sitting in an electric massage chair and handling a jackhammer, the vibrations from the speakers rippling through the reporter's body. Only it was quiet enough that nearby office workers hardly noticed it.

After the 15-minute composition had finished, Mr. Tcherepnin, who is 31, explained that "Massage Performance" is more about one's sense of touch than one's sense of hearing "The sound feels like it is surrounding you and everywhere, yet it also sounds like it's coming from you, as part of the sound comes from bone conduction," he said.

The composition, which will next be presented at IPR on Nov. 27, addresses and acts upon an awareness that a person's entire physical body, as much as his auditory or visual sense, can absorb and process an art work, particularly a musical performance. "You hear it outside, but your bones and skin and body mass is amplifying it," Mr. Tcherepnin said. "The sound travels directly through your bones."

"Massage Performance" is not the only current exhibit that derives its art from the human body. A similar corporeal resonance is found in Martynka Wawrzyniak's most recent gallery event, "Smell Me," at Envoy Enterprises on Rivington Street. Ms. Wawrzyniak is known for her work in photography, video and, especially, interactive performance art. In 2009, her piece "Ketchup" found her blindfolded and doused in the condiment by a firing squad of squealing kids; in 2010, she submerged herself in chocolate syrup for "Chocolate." Her latest endeavor is a self-portrait of sorts. But it's not to be seen.

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