

Sonic Art Gallery, San Diego California

We should explain what Sonic Art is: The Sound Sculpture movement is itself fairly recent--move art museums as you know have been rather distant "mustn't touch" places where we visitors are supposed to go quietly about in hushed respect, and contemplate everything with eyes only and in churchlike silence.

The closing exhibit before moving the Gallery to the new location has been "The Underground Cathedral" by Frederick Abrams. This features a large stained Glass window depicting a colored map of the Paris Subway system--Le Metro as they call it--but with novel words and phrases instead of the real names of the stations. It is accompanied with a tape of synthesizer music and also the sounds of the New York City Subway System. The effect is remotely like what the Italian Futurists had in mind--the borderland between noise and music, crossing the usual barrier between them--the train-sounds are examples of what the Futurists called the Intoning of Noises, since they do have pitch. The exhibit will be on tour and has already been seen in other cities.