



IN THE
MOUNTAINS

ALONG
A FOOTPATH

ONE
ENCOUNTERS
A PLACE

WITH AN AIR
OF ANOTHER
DENSITY.

"At the outset, I shall make a difference between space (*espace*) and place (*lieu*) that delimits a field. A place is the order (of whatever kind) in accord with which elements are distributed in relationships of coexistence. It thus excludes the possibility of two things being in the same location (*place*). The law of the 'proper' rules in the place: the elements taken into consideration are beside one another, each situated in its own 'proper' and distinct location, a location it defines. A place is thus an instantaneous configuration of positions, it implies an indication of stability¹".

His Place Works (*Œuvres de Lieu*), Max Neuhaus once stated, create a new place by transforming an existing one, by conferring on it a character. The Sound Work (generic title the artist uses for all his works) he has realized for a private collector in Saint-Luc (Switzerland) embodies this operation of characterization. First, there is a space, a context—a public footpath through an impressive mountain setting. In adding a highly delimited sound field to a point on this pathway, Neuhaus transforms it into a place. Walking along the path, either unknowingly or expecting this experience, one suddenly feels oneself within the work. Far from being site-specific in an art historical sense, here, the work is made from its site.

This work takes its place within a series of works Neuhaus has made for exterior public spaces, from Times Square to the Promenade du Pin in Geneva. These Sound Works address an audience of a new type: a flaneur, wandering through spaces in order to collect these particular experiences of places.

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¹ Michel de Certeau, *The Practice of Everyday Life*, trans. by Steven Randall, University of California Press, Berkeley, 1984, p. 115

