

META-XENAKIS

NEW PERSPECTIVES ON IANNIS XENAKIS'S LIFE, WORK,
AND LEGACIES

EDITED BY SHARON KANACH AND PETER NELSON





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Cover image: Iannis Xenakis at the C.R. MacIntosh Museum, Glasgow, Scotland, 1987. Photo by Henning Lohner, courtesy of CIX Archives, Lohner collection.

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49. *An Architecture of Alchemy: A Cinematic Painting*

David J. Lieberman



Fig. 49.1 Drawing from "*traces at the edge*." Image by the author (2021).¹

1 "*traces at the edge*" is a series of sculptural drawings that conceptually and compositionally can be

Architecture is listening ...

Architecture is dancing ...

Not all architecture can be seen ...

As architect, artist, poet, and filmmaker, I identify as an alchemist in asserting that architecture constructs mechanisms by which to transform experience in considering the body as an empathic instrument to apprehend and to understand space. Traditional spatial composition has relied on the surfaces of resistance and reflection; space can be understood as the dissolve, and in the blur of the visual and the aural at the limits of perception and in its tactility. The work of Iannis Xenakis has been the subject of ongoing research and has been an influence on practice for over five decades. Rather than contributing a scholarly presentation in the Japan leg of the Meta-Xenakis Symposium, I proposed a cinematic painting as a personal tribute to Xenakis: *An Architecture of Alchemy*, integrating video excerpts from “the SPACE between the NOTES” performance in 2022, itself based on a series of my sculptural drawings “traces at the edge” from the previous year, with my voice over reciting personal texts.

An Architecture of Alchemy



Fig. 49.2 Still image from performance of “the SPACE between the NOTES,” Vienna, 13 June 2022.

understood as choreographic notations for dancers’ hour-long performance in response to the music of Iannis Xenakis and poetic texts of the author.

Anatomiesaal Schillerplatz, Vienna, 13 June 2022

Dancers: Andreanne Brosseau, Kaja Piszczek

Video and audio: Paul Bohm, Dila Kirmizitoprak, Stepan Nesterenko

Drawings: *traces at the edge* (2021), David J. Lieberman

Cinematic painting, editor: Martin Riese

Sound recordist: Daniel M. C. Lieberman

Creator, producer, and director: David J. Lieberman

Music: Kuniko Kato plays Iannis Xenakis: *Pléïades: Peaux* (1978), Linn Records, with permission



Fig. 49.3 Photo collage, stills from video of *An Architecture of Alchemy*, image by author (2022).



Media 49.1 *An Architecture of Alchemy: A Cinematic Painting*, Studio of David J. Lieberman
Architect, Toronto 2022.
<https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12434/cffbda1e>

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