

WHY

IS IT THEY SAY A  
CITY LIKE  
ANY CITY?

Ale Hop

Berlin 2022

Duration: 50 min

Audiovisual Installation

All questions to be directed to: [mo\[at\]media-loca.com](mailto:mo@media-loca.com)

## TECH RIDER

### **The artist will provide:**

One video file 1920 x 1080 pixels with audio (stereo or multichannel)

### **The organizer will provide:**

- Media Player (in case of full version installation, with 5.1 audio encoder)
- Genelec Amplified Loudspeakers (positioned in one of the two proposed set ups)
- HD or Full HD Beamer (positioned in one of the two proposed set ups)
- Screen (positioned in one of the two proposed set ups)
- An audio technician in charge of setting the sounds according to the specifications of the artist.

### **Light and Visual Specifications:**

- Neutral room, no lights
- Preferably in a single space, without other pieces

The artist can present **two version of the same installation**, a full version (audio 5.1, screen in the ceiling, special furniture so that the viewer sees the projection lying down) and a small version (stereo audio, screen in the wall)

## FULL VERSION

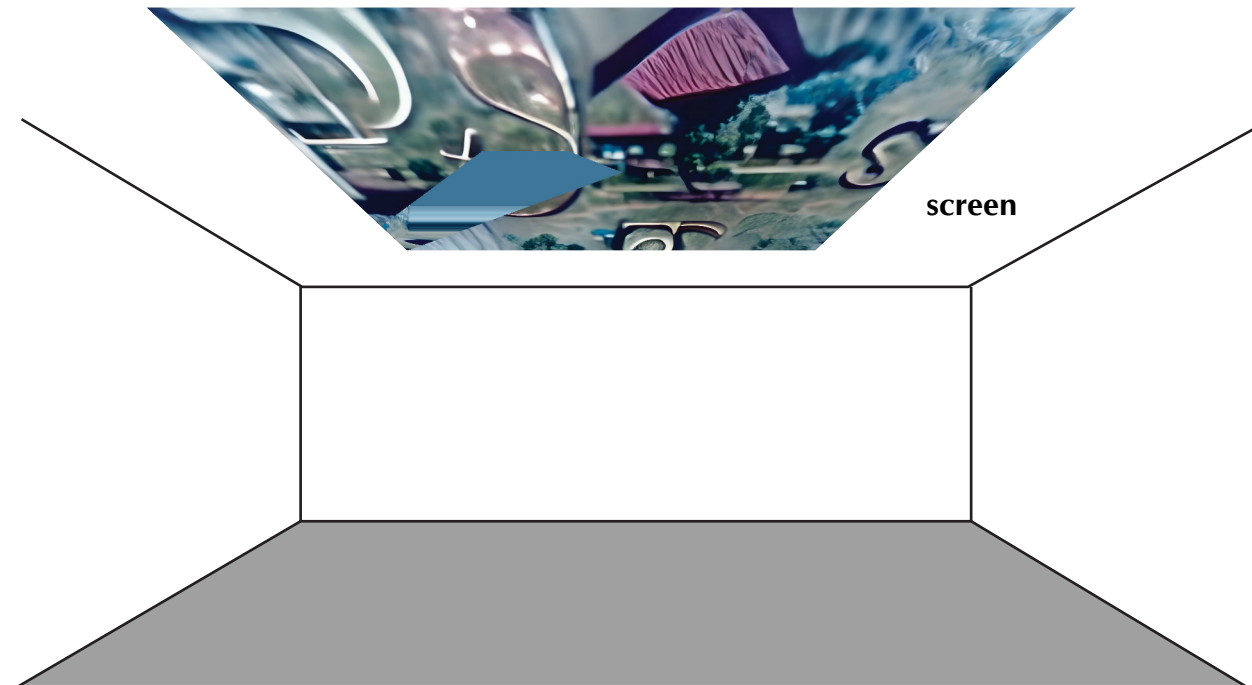
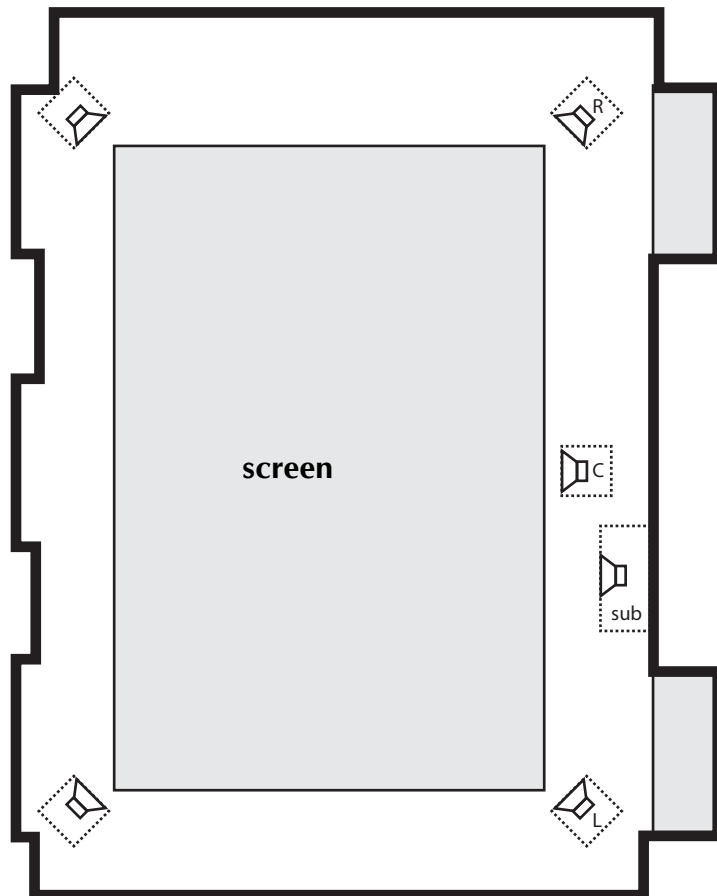
### Specific Technical Requirements

5.1 loudspeakers arrangement / Channel order: L -R- C- lfe -Ls -Rs.

One screen in the ceiling/beamer pointing to the ceiling

Example: <https://alehophop.com/portfolio-item/why-is-it-they-say-a-city-like-any-city/>

### PLOT



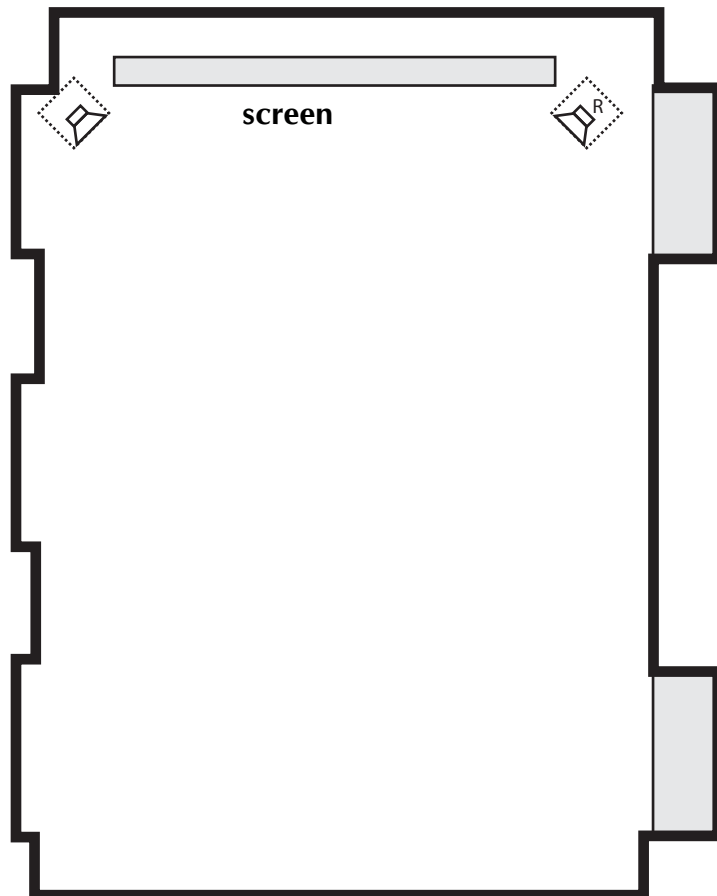
## SMALL VERSION

### Specific Technical Requirements

2 loudspeakers arrangement / Channel order: L -R

One screen in the wall/beamer pointing to the wall

PLOT



## PROMO INFORMATION

### Project description:

"Why Is It They Say a City Like Any City?" is an audiovisual installation by the Peruvian-born, Berlin-based experimental artist Ale Hop. The piece was conceived in a context of immobility, and imagines an hallucinatory travel along South American territories, through sound and visual vignettes created in collaboration with thirteen musicians around the world, and an AI tool used to "translate" and "mistranslate" speech into image, creating different temporalities and points of view.

During the lockdown months, with the idea of challenging the digital technological resources that appear to dilute distances, Ale started a process of remote collaboration by sending messages, posted from various cities along a South American trip, to thirteen. In the messages, she journaled her impressions of places familiar to her, to an intimate fictional character while reflecting on matters of time, sound, cosmovision and colonial memory. The thirteen musicians (Ana Quiroga, Concepcion Huerta, Daniela Huerta, Elsa M'balla, Felicity Magan, Fil Uno, Ignacio Briceño, KMRU, Manongo Mujica, Nicole L'huillier, Raul Jardín, Sukitoa Onamau, Tomas Tello) summoned by the artist were asked to respond with sound collaborations.

The idea behind this experiment was that her messages and the places they describe could be a catalyzer for a composition, allowing new soundscapes to emerge. Field recordings, mouth drumming, drone cellos, electronic loops, arrhythmic rhythms and voices came as responses to this experiment. Ale assembled them, along with her recorded voice of the messages, turning them into sonic vignettes of the South American territories.

Finally, the visuals of the piece were created in collaboration with the Mexican technologist, and artist, Moises Horta. Using an Artificial Intelligence multi-modal neural network, Horta transformed the messages written by Ale, synthesizing them into free-flowing images. The visual imagery resembles the way memory works when triggered by words, by traveling freely through mental images unfolding them into open-ended assemblages of spaces and temporalities.

**Artists:** Ale Hop, in collaboration with Ana Quiroga, Concepcion Huerta, Daniela Huerta, Elsa M'balla, Felicity Magan, Fil Uno, Ignacio Briceño, KMRU, Manongo Mujica, Moises Horta, Nicole L'huillier, Raul Jardín, Sukitoa Onamau, Tomas Tello.

SUPPORTED BY THE AKADEMIE DER KÜNSTE WITH FUNDING FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER FOR CULTURE AND THE MEDIA AS PART OF THE NEUSTART KULTUR PROGRAMME.

## **Artist Bio**

Ale Hop is the moniker of Alejandra Cárdenas, a Berlin-based, Peru-born artist, researcher, and experimental multi-instrumentalist that began her career in the 2000s in the underground scene of Lima, where she had several pop, punk and electronic bands, and continually collaborated with filmmakers, musicians, and artists. In her music project, she finely blends and crafts a complex repertoire of unorthodox guitar techniques, with psychedelic drones that become visceral and breathtaking live performances. Her studious approach to the subjects covered in her albums and pieces is constantly influenced by her background as a researcher. Cárdenas completed a BA in Art History, her master's in Sound Studies, further studies in History of Science and Technology, and is currently pursuing a PhD at Berlin University of Arts. She has edited two volumes of the publication "Border-Listening/Escucha-Liminal" on decolonial, non-western, and Latin American perspectives on sound and listening, and is co-founder of the Berlin-based festival Radical Sounds Latin America.

## **Press images for web/catalogue**

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/qo2uo7cjr950/alehop-installation-still1.jpg?dl=0>

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/7qm0vopgfn1/alehop-installation-still2.jpg?dl=0>

Credit: Stil taken from "Why Is It They Say A City Like Any City?"

## **Portrait of the artist**

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/ix5t0clxdv6b57v/alehop-no-credit-2022.jpg?dl=0>

No photo credit, or self-portrait.

## **Social media links**

Web: <https://alehophop.com/>

Instagram: @ale\_hophop

Twitter: @alehophop

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/alehophop>