

<https://www.artforum.com/events/max-neuhaus-229628/>

Five Russians 1979

Sound Work References:

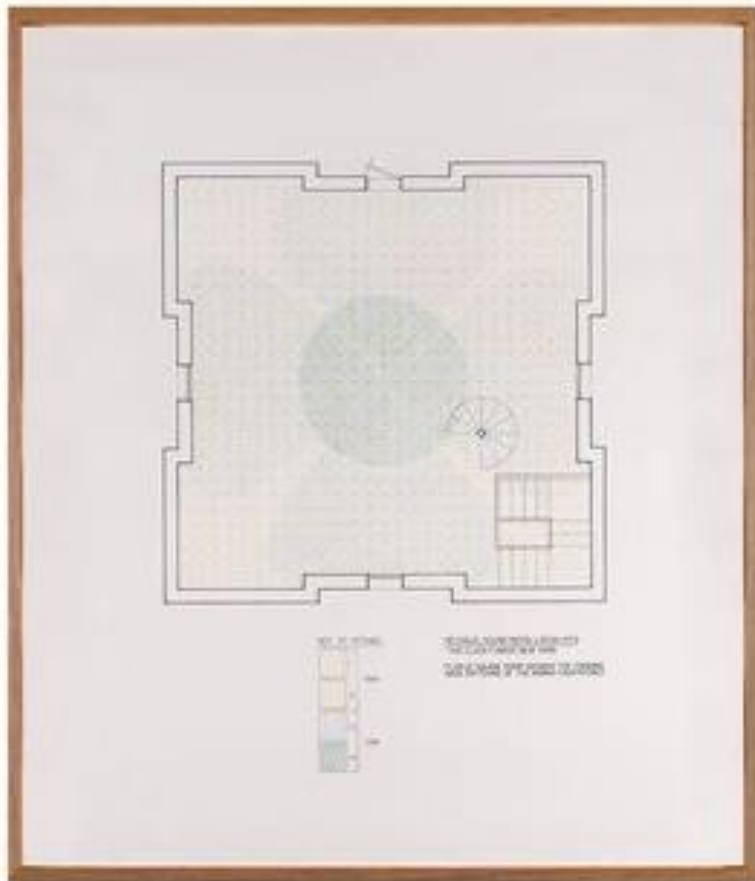
Location: The Clocktower, Institute for Art and Urban Resources, New York City

Dimensions: 10 x 10 x 11 meters

Extant: Fall, 1979

The drawing refers to the installation *Five Russians* (A Tuned Room), created by Neuhaus at Clocktower Gallery, the space that preceded New York's P.S.1. This sound work, specifically focused on the physics of sound and its perception through body movements, was reconstituted at the Frac Franche-Comté in 2016 as part of the *Max Feed* exhibition. This installation can be reconstituted because it is simply designed for a square room, whereas most of Max Neuhaus' proposals are intended for a specific location. The title is inspired by the type of chairs the artist found in the Clocktower space. The public could move them to test different listening points.

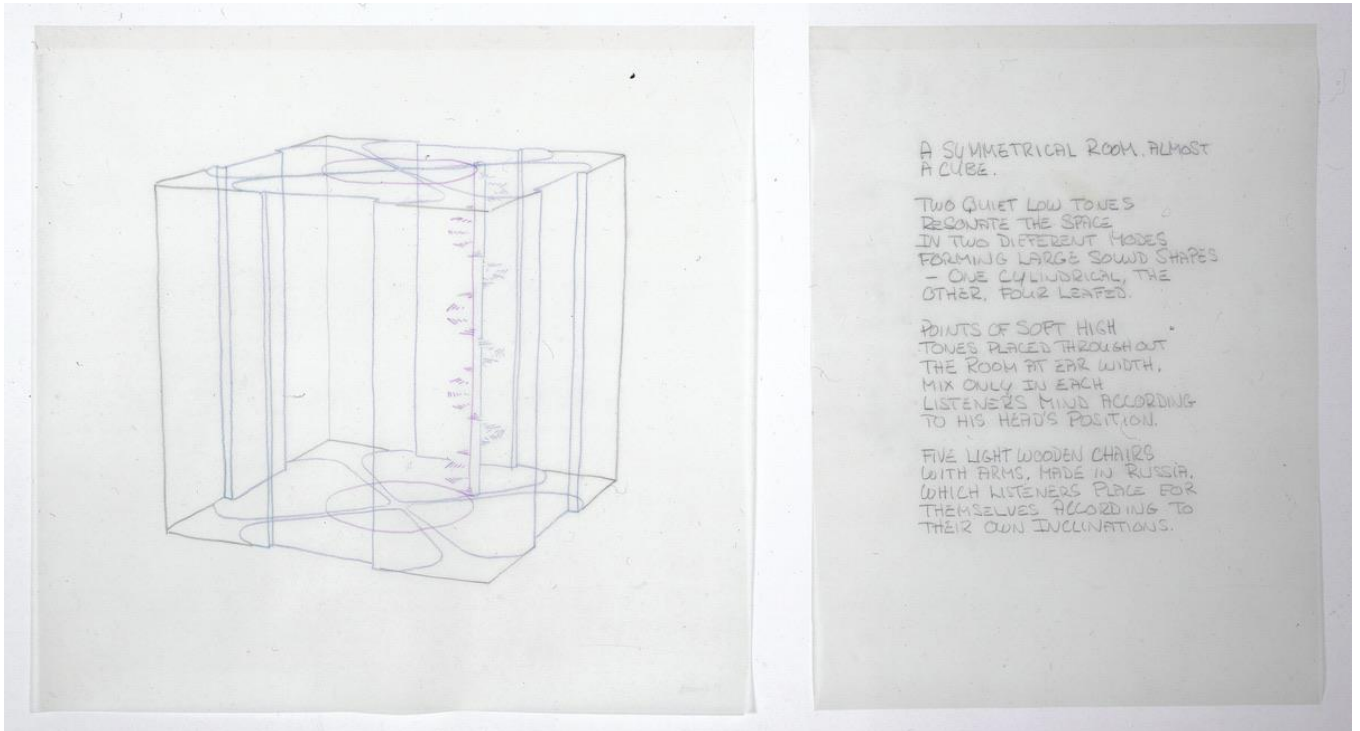
The drawing shows the physicality of the sound, with the symmetrical patterns corresponding to the propagation of low frequencies and the tighter mesh of patterns at high frequencies. These two types of sound produce different effects, quite destabilizing for the body. Low frequencies are calculated to resonate with the architecture, creating pockets in space where they are more or less loud, or even completely silent. High frequencies produce a similar effect, but their wavelength corresponds to the distance between the two ears, as if the cranium were a small resonant chamber within the large resonant chamber formed by the exhibition hall. You only have to move your head a little to hear the sound change completely. All these elements identify *Five Russians* as one of Max Neuhaus's most significant works.



Drawing: Five Russians, 1979

Ink, felt pen, pencil and coloured pencil on paper, 76.5 x 65.5 cm

Crédit photographique : Blaise Adilon



Drawing: *Five Russians*, 1993 https://www.max-neuhaus.estate/images/original/FiveRussians_1.gif

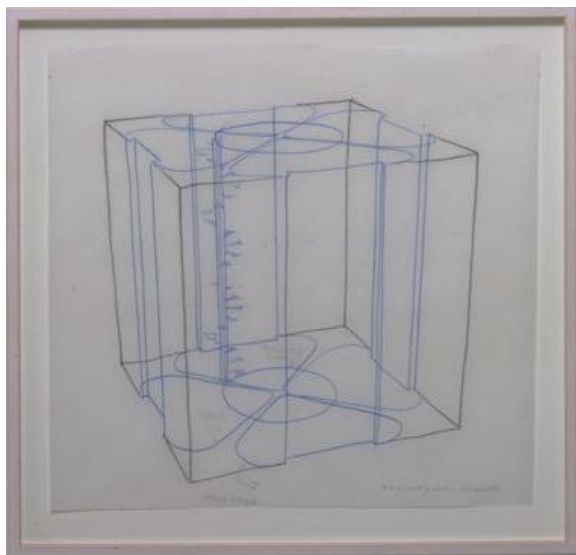
[Exhibition Drawing, frac franche-comté7, exposition collective expositions du 9 octobre au 30 décembre 2016/ Besançon France](#)

[Max Neuhaus. Evoking the Audible. Evocare l'udibile/ Évoquer l'auditif, \(Milan: Charta, 1995\). Catalogue](#)

[Max Feed, ŒUVRE ET HÉRITAGE DE MAX NEUHAUS, Institut Supérieur Des Beaux-Art De Besançon, French edition, published in September 2018. \(Selected pages\)](#)

Max Neuhaus, Four Drawing Studies, Five Russians, 1993

Pencil on paper, 57 x 59 cm; 57 x 59 cm; 57 x 59 cm; 57 x 59 cm





FIVE RUSSIANS

(A TUNED ROOM)

Treating the body of air in a resonant room as a vibratable block of material, activating several of its natural modes of movement -- two high, two low -- making it sound.

The low pitches combine differently in different parts of the room. The mixture of highs changes as you change the position of your head. It takes a minute for your ears to focus and hear the differences. The chairs may be moved around.

M.N.

The drawing refers to the installation Five Russians (A Tuned Room), created by Neuhaus at Clocktower Gallery, the space that preceded New York's P.S.1.

See: *Max Neuhaus Sound Works, volume III*, pp.22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29