

And the sky is unforgettable

mark so

*[4 people widely spaced in a rough line, in an open urban/suburban place on a calm night
[each choosing a sound of forest vegetation rubbing/rustling and a text from which to read*

*the mists
And certain other parts of antediluvian forests still
Hassle this downtown mysteriously, and sometimes*

*The voice of reason is heard for a hard, clear moment,
Then falls still*

– John Ashbery, “The Image of the Shark Confronts
the Image of the Little Match Girl”

*each seated in position, facing a direction of independent choosing, maintained throughout
forming a loosely coherent alley of activity, threading the center of the chosen place
each is assigned a part 1-4, counting from one end of the line to the other
all activity taking place within the indicated time frames*

[0'- 5'—forest sounds:

*enter gradually, one after another, in ascending order (part 1 to part 4)
each sustaining her sound for some duration, at least long enough to overlap with the next*

[5'- 10'—reading:

*any 3-4 read aloud from their chosen texts for a duration of ca. 1'- 2'
each reading placed freely in time, free to overlap with others*

[10'- 15'—forest sounds:

*enter gradually, one after another, in descending order (part 4 to part 1)
each sustaining her sound for some duration, at least long enough to overlap with the next*

[15'- 20'—reading:

*any 2 read aloud from her chosen text for a duration of ca. 1'- 2'
each reading placed freely in time, free to overlap with the other*

[20'- 25'—forest sounds:

*parts 1 & 4 (outer) alone start first, each entering individually in the first few minutes
gradually giving way to parts 2 & 3 (inner) alone, which enter individually and overlap 1 & 4 ca. 22'- 23'*

[25'- 30'—reading:

*any 0-1 reads aloud from her chosen text for a duration of ca. 1'- 2'
reading placed freely in time*

[30'- 35'—forest sounds:

*parts 2 & 3 (inner) alone start first, each entering individually in the first few minutes
gradually giving way to parts 1 & 4 (outer) alone, which enter individually and overlap 2 & 3 ca. 32'- 33'*

*forest sounds extremely soft, slight, focused; a light, distinctive atmosphere slowly passing through the place
reading aloud in a normal speaking voice, at a normal pace, nonchalant*

[duration: 35'

*6 april 2009
park city*