

rhona bither
17_03_11-30_04_11

Statement

As CBGB's closed its doors in 2006, I began to think about music, primarily popular music, its wide reach and direct relationship to the human experience. I became intrigued by the notion of physical emptiness (co)existing with the memory of what occurred there.

This series of photographs records spaces that may be empty of the performances that made them memorable yet remain filled with the recollection of what occurred there and the moments when they became unintentional place-markers of events, ideas and progressions of popular culture. In some cases, the performances became hallmarks of a zeitgeist experienced by a movement or generation.

These venues encompass a wide range — clubs, theaters, arenas, parks, churches, recording studios — but still retain the unifying significance of the “place where it happened”. Many of these sites continue to inspire visits or pilgrimages.

The current state of these locations (empty, disused, reused) may belie their significance. But as places where a particular event happened, where a musician was discovered, where a hit song was recorded or where a genre found its voice, these venues may introduce a rather immediate and/or intimate relationship with a viewer than that of mere nostalgia. A simple, straightforward photograph of a place, perhaps not immediately evident for its significance can introduce an echo of recognition or familiarity, reinforcing a relationship of place, memory and resonance and, perhaps, a faint whisper of sound.

I have titled this project LISTEN.

Rhona Bither

BFAS Blondeau Fine Art Services

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LISTEN (in progress) 2006-2010 venues included thus far

The artist wishes to thank the following for their assistance, gracious generosity, support and warm welcome

128 Walnut Street Blues Bar, Greenville, MS
12th and Porter, Nashville, TN
708 Club (site), Chicago, IL
9:30 Club, Washington, D.C.
Agora Ballroom and Theater, Cleveland, OH
Alvin's Fine Diner, Detroit, MI
American Bandstand site/Enterprise Center, PA
Antone's Night Club, Austin, TX
Apollo Theater, New York, NY
Aragon Ballroom, Chicago, IL
Ardent Studios, Memphis, TN
Avalon Ballroom, Los Angeles, CA
Baker's Keyboard Lounge, Detroit, MI
Belcourt Theater, Nashville, TN
Belzoni Jail / MS Highway Patrol, Belzoni, MS
Beverly Hills Hilton, Los Angeles, CA
Bitter End, New York, NY
Big Pink, Woodstock, NY
Blind Pig, Ann Arbor, MI
Blue Bird Cafe, Nashville, TN
Blue Bird Inn, Detroit, MI
Blue Front Cafe, Beltonia, MS
Bourbon Street Blues and Boogie Bar, Nashville, TN
Broken Spoke, Austin, TX
Cafe Wha?, New York, NY
Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa, OK
Canton Memorial Civic Center, OH
Carousel Lounge, Austin, TX
Casa Loma Ballroom, St. Louis, MO
CBGB, New York, NY
Chess Records - Blues Heaven, Chicago, IL
Chicago Board of Trade, (WCIU site) IL
Chicago Theater, Chicago, IL
Clarksdale Civic Auditorium, Clarksdale, MS
Club Baron site, Nashville, TN
Club Paradise, Memphis, TN
Cobo Arena, Detroit, MI
The Comedy Store, Los Angeles, CA
Continental Club, Austin, TX
The Daisy, Memphis, TN
The New Daisy, Memphis, TN
Dessau Hall, Austin, TX
Diamond Ballroom, Oklahoma City, OK
Dockery Plantation, Cleveland, MS
Dripping Springs Ranch, TX
Earl Carroll Theater (Hulabaloo site), Los Angeles, CA
East West Studios, Los Angeles, CA
Eastown Theater, Detroit, MI
Ebenezer Baptist Church, Chicago, IL
Club Ebony, Indianola, MS
Ed Sullivan Theater, Late Night with David Letterman, NY
El Torreon Ballroom, Kansas City, MO
Electric Lady Studios, New York, NY
Empire Room @ Palmer House, Chicago, IL
Ernest Tubb Record Shop, Nashville, TN
Exit/In, Nashville, TN
FAME Studios, Muscle Shoals, AL
Fair Park Coliseum, Lubbock, TX
First Church of Deliverance, Chicago, IL
Flowing Fountain, Greenville, MS
Garden Theater (VillageClub), Detroit, MI
Ginny's Little Longhorn, Austin, TX
Graceland, Memphis, TN
Grand Terrace (site), Chicago, IL
Grande Ballroom, Detroit, MI
Green Mill Jazz Club, Chicago, IL
Gruene Hall, New Braunfels, TX
Auditorium, Hibbing High School, Hibbing, MN
Harpo's, Detroit, MI
Hitsville U.S.A., Detroit, MI
Hollywood Bowl, Los Angeles, CA
Hollywood High, Los Angeles, CA
Howard Theater, Washington D.C.
Ice House, Pasadena, CA
Indiana State Fairgrounds, Indianapolis, IN
John T. Floore's, Helotes, TX
Kiel Opera House, St. Louis, MO
KLRU-TV, Austin City Limits, Austin, TX
Latin Quarter, Detroit, MI
Lee's Unleaded, Chicago, IL
Little Theater, Hibbing, MN
Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, CA
The Majestic, Detroit, MI
Mason Temple (C.O.G.I.C.), Memphis, TN
Masonic Temple, Detroit, MI
The Masque (site), Los Angeles, CA
Max Yasgur's Farm (Woodstock Site), Bethel, NY
McCabe's Guitar Shop, Santa Monica, CA
Michigan Theater, Detroit, MI
Million Dollar Theater, Los Angeles, CA
The Mint Bar, Los Angeles, CA
Minton's Playhouse, New York, NY
Municipal Auditorium Music Hall, Kansas City, MO
Municipal Auditorium Arena, Kansas City, MO
Municipal Memorial Auditorium, Shreveport, LA
Muscle Shoals Sound, Muscle Shoals, AL
Music City, Clovis, NM
Music Hall Center, Detroit, MI
Mutual Musicians Foundation, Kansas City, MO
NBC Studio 8-H, Saturday Night Live, New York, NY
National Theater, Detroit, MI
New Bethel Baptist Church, Detroit, MI
Newport Music Hall, Columbus, OH
New Roxy Theater, Clarksdale, MS
Norman Petty Recording Studios, Clovis, NM
Ocean Way Nashville, Nashville, TN
Ocean Way Recording, Los Angeles, CA
Orchestra Hall, Detroit, MI
Original Sound, Los Angeles, CA
Overton Park, Memphis, TN
The Parthenon, Nashville, TN
Pasadena Civic Auditorium, Pasadena, CA
Peabody Hotel, Memphis, TN
Pickford Theater (site), Chicago, IL
Pilgrim Baptist Church, Chicago, IL
Po' Monkey's, Merigold, MS
Preservation Hall, New Orleans, LA
Public Auditorium, Cleveland, OH
Quad Studios, Nashville, TN
The Quonset hut, Nashville, TN
Randy's Ballroom, San Antonio, TX
RCA Studio A, Nashville, TN
Historic@ RCA Studio B, Nashville, TN
Red's Lounge, Clarksdale, MS
Riverside Hotel, Clarksdale, MS
Riviera Club (site), St. Louis, MO
Riviera Theater, Chicago, IL
Roberts Western World, Nashville, TN
Roostertail, Detroit, MI
The Roxy, Los Angeles, CA
Royal Oak Music Theater, MI
Royal Studio, Memphis, TN
Ryman Auditorium, Nashville, TN
Saint Andrews Hall, Detroit, MI
Sam Phillips Recording Service, Memphis, TN
Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, Los Angeles, CA
Shea Stadium, New York, NY
Shoreland Hotel - University of Chicago, IL
Shrine Auditorium, Los Angeles, CA
Soldier Field Stadium, Chicago, IL
Soulsville/Stax, Memphis, TN
Sound Factory, Los Angeles, CA
State Theater/Fillmore Detroit, MI
Station Inn, Nashville, TN
Stovall Plantation, Clarksdale, MS
Sun Records, Memphis, TN
Sunset Cafe (site), Chicago, IL
Sunset Sound Studios, Los Angeles, CA
The Sutler, Nashville, TN
Threadgill's, Austin, TX
Tiger Stadium, Detroit, MI
Tiptina's, New Orleans, LA
Tootsie's Orchid Lounge, Nashville, TN
The Troubadour, Los Angeles, CA
Tuxedo Junction, Nixon Building, Birmingham, AL
United Record Pressing, Nashville, TN
United Sound Studios, Detroit, MI
Universal Recording (site), Chicago, IL
Uptown Theater, Chicago, IL
Uptown Theater, Philadelphia, PA
The Vex @ Self-Help Graphics, Los Angeles, CA
Victory Grill, Austin, TX
Village Vanguard, New York, NY
Viper Room, Los Angeles, CA
WGRM Radio, Greenwood, MS
WLAY AM, Muscle Shoals, AL
WROX, Clarksdale, MS
WSM Radio, Franklin, TN
War Memorial Auditorium, Nashville, TN
Washington Coliseum/Uline Arena, Washington D.C.
Westlake Recording Studios, Los Angeles, CA
Whisky A Go Go, Los Angeles, CA
Willshire Ebell, Los Angeles, CA
Womble Olds (site), Lubbock, TX

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THUR-FRI 14h-18h30
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