

CAROLINE CLAUS



## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

*CDA SONIC DRIFT (2025)* is an audio essay that listens to Brussels-North, an urban landscape in transition. Centred on the open space around a mixed-use block on Chaussée d'Anvers, the work follows an AI-powered sonic geographic *dérive* that traces three alluring sonic figures from two complementary vantage points:

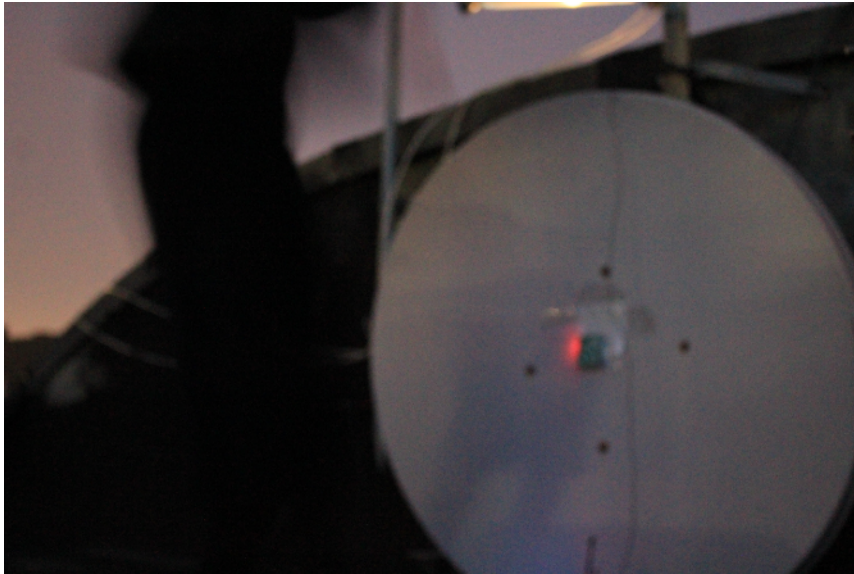
- Rooftop loggers monitor the district's acoustic horizon, filtering speech at the source to satisfy GDPR while retaining distant traffic and airflow.
- Street-level field recording captures the qualities of textures and utterances that shape everyday sonic proximity.

Each geo- and time-coded recording is processed with Urban-Sound Separation (USS) to mark every figure's emergence and withdrawal, and with Audio-Emotion Recognition (AER) to trace events of perceived acoustic discomfort. The resulting data are plotted on GIS layers to suggest how forthcoming densification and compact-city policies could reshape the local soundscape.

The installation adopts the form of a small studio workspace. Three hand-cut dubplates—one per urban space of observation—rest on a modular headphone deck; visitors may cue, loop, or reverse them, the gradual wear of the acetate mirroring the area's uncertain future. Small / Large GIS prints surround the deck and remain open

to annotation, encouraging listeners to compare their own observations with the algorithmic reading.

Here, sound operates as both analytical critique and speculative proposition, presenting Brussels-North as a constellation of differential sonic atmospheres open to critical interrogation and imaginative reconfiguration through ongoing acts of listening.



## BIO

Caroline Claus is an urban planner, sound artist, and researcher based in Brussels. She holds degrees in sociology, urbanism, spatial planning, and design and earned a Ph.D. in architecture from KU Leuven. Her practice engages vibration and site-specific listening to rethink how space is defined and experienced amid contemporary urban, social, technological, and ecological change. Through practice-based research in sonic ethnography and art-driven cartography, Claus studies how critical engagement with sound environments can inform the planning and design of differential atmospheres in support of the creation of dynamic and resilient urban sites and landscapes. Claus has contributed to the planning of urban railway sites and transitory processes and has long term experience supporting organizations in community-led public space redesign. Her work has been published and presented in exhibitions and international conferences and programs.

## CREDITS + ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A project by Caroline Claus, PhD, artist – researcher in sound studies and planning and design research

Developed as part of a ReSilence S+T+ARTS Horizon EU Artistic Residency (ReSilence Grant Agreement No. 101070278):

Definition of the conceptual framework, methodology and score for sonic spatial analysis; integration into toolkit design and case study; cartography and GIS; mixed media installation: Caroline Claus, PhD – ReSilence Artist in Residency

Programming for automated, scheduled, and voice-controlled audio recording; selection and integration of AER and USS algorithms; technical data processing and analysis: CERTH (Georgios Loupas, Paraskevi Kritopoulou, Nefeli Georgakopoulou)

Final mix and mastering: Christophe Albertijn

Vinyl cuts: Dubplate – Lester Michiels

Vinyl sleeve design and print: Chez Rosi – Axel Claeys