

MOVABLE FLOOR

Installation (roller-skates, cable, headphones, audio)

Rhode Island University, Nov 1979; The Kitchen, NY, Feb 1980

Variable Dimensions (RIU: Appr. 10' x 30' x 50'; The Kitchen: Appr. 10' x 12' x 21')

A closed cable system that covers the available floor space and draws roller skates across a room: a person can step between and over the cable; or a person can, at least theoretically, step on the skates, use superhuman strength, and skate across the room, at least as much of the room as possible until a skate reaches the end of its line and stops the system. (In the Rhode Island University installation of the piece, each cable is approximately the same length, each cable holds one skate; in The Kitchen installation, the lines of the cable are different lengths according to the space available – a line, e.g., has to be shortened to allow the door to open – and there are four skates on each line, with different spaces between the skates according to the length of the line.)

Above the skates, four headphones hang from the ceiling: a person has to walk between the lines of cable and go up to each headphone in order to hear it. As the room is entered, the first three headphones come upon each holds one phrase of disco music, repeated and overlapped, while the last headphone holds a Chilean Revolution song developed one phrase at a time. (In the Rhode Island University installation of the piece, all the headphones are visibly the same, all the headphones are black – only the sound within differentiates them; in The Kitchen installation, the headphone carrying the revolution song is visually pointed to, the headphone is red.)