

## **Ken Nordine**

### **"The Sound Museum"**

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Nordine.Ken/Sound\_Museum

The Sound Museum as recorded in 1957 by Ken Nordine

Right Now,  
Before we go anyplace else,  
I want you to go with me to a special place, that I know.  
It's a museum,  
But, it isn't an ordinary museum.  
It's a very abstract museum in which they show sound  
paintings.  
If you can say that you show sound.  
But, I don't see why you can't.  
But, here we are in this corridor.  
Some of the most beautiful works of art are here.  
Here's one, right here.  
This is by a very fine young artist.  
Here, let me turn it on.

That sold for two thousand dollars.  
Makes a lot of money, actually, doing these things.  
But now I'd like to turn your attention to this work by an  
artist who is a  
World War One veteran.  
Actually I don't feel that this, for me, says what he  
intended it to say.  
And yet there are those who listen to it and it says a  
great deal to them.  
Well here, I'll turn it on and you'll see what I mean.

You can see that he uses limited color range, of course  
that's  
understandable.  
I'm glad that it's here, though.  
But, enough of that lets go on to the next work I want  
you to see.  
Now this is a sound painting, that is indicative of the  
neurotic feel  
ling of our time.  
The artist is very young, shows great promise, and I'm

glad that the work is  
exhibited here.  
Let me turn this painting on.

I think you can see my point, now the artist that did this,  
fortunately, is  
under sedatives at the  
moment and we expect that his later work will be much  
calmer and quieter.  
But we do like to give these young neurotic artists a  
chance.  
And so I'm glad that the museum has been big about  
the whole thing, if it  
were.  
But, lets go on because there's one work here that's  
been done by Jonnes  
Cunningham.  
This is a professor from another country ,actually, but  
his work is revealed  
here.

We have quite a few of his works, but this particular  
one I want you to  
listen to very carefully  
because it has an exquisite sense of rythm.  
This is a young man who has six children, and it's  
amazing to me that he can  
turn out this kind of  
work at home, with the children around.  
But he says that they help him.  
If you'll read it, Cunningham says "dedicated to my six  
children."

Well here, I'll turn it on and you can hear it for yourself.

It's just beautiful.  
Yes, that is one work that the museum should well be  
proud of.  
However, I would like to have you come with me now  
and we'll open this black  
door at the end of  
the corridor, here.  
I won't be able to keep it open very long, and I think  
you'll understand why.  
Here, I'll open it, like this, just a crack, and you listen.

See what I mean?  
I'll close the door.  
There's a reason it's black.  
Here, let me open up this door.  
It's just covered with beautiful colors.

And, we'll hear what's on the other side of this door.

Transcribed by Eric D. Wilcox

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