



THE BELL JAR

by **George De Decker**

A glass bell.
A world in a world.
Silence.
A wall of glass And chaos behind it.
Breakable.
Nothing is clear.
What is the inside?
What is the outside?
Only the one in the bell



Bells.
A sound. For centuries conveying emotions:
(everything has got its 'proper' code)
alarm, fire, danger, a marriage, birth, death, joy, ...
A universal sound.
Recognition.

How far can you go, starting from these elements,
without losing the elementary sound
and its recognition?

Regularly laying the sounds of the bells
next to human presence?

Simply putting down the tower from time to time?



St.Rombout's cathedral of Mechelen (Belgium).
Mechelen is a carillon city. It harbours no less than five
carillons. The Royal School for Carillon enjoys wide
international acclaim.
The St.Rumbold's tower actually has two carillons: an old
one that is no longer in use and a new one that was built
in the 1980s by the firm Eijsbouts.



We were not looking for a carillon player or for carillon music. We were looking for a musician/sound artist, to interpret what was given in a completely different way, using the bells as material, as a sound source. For two days we climbed the tower, with its 514 steps and made recordings in every space.

The whole tower turned into sound. The other ambient recordings were made in the streets of and the domain Rozendael in Sint-Katelijne-Waver (near Mechelen)

Slavek Kwi (sounds)
sound artist / sound architect / composer
<http://www.artificialmemorytrace.com/>

Ward Weis (recording)
sound artist / sound architect / composer
<http://www.planktone.net>

George De Decker (composer)
sound artist / sound architect / composer

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recording sessions September 2005 (bells) December
2006 (sounds)

Composing, editing & mixing November 2007

Text: George De Decker Translation: Tom Hannes

playlist	duration	total
01. part 0	01:00	1
+		
02. part 1	04:00	5
03. part 2	05:00	10
04. part 3	05:00	15
05. part 4	05:00	20
06. part 5	05:00	25