



## **BLITZ**

Contemporary Art  
Wartime Shelters  
Birgu

31 March  
30 June  
2005

Curated by Raphael Vella

Organised by the:  
60th WW2 Anniversary Committee  
The Arts Council, Malta  
Malta Heritage Trust

## PATRICK FENECH

### STOP THAT NOISE - ONE EAR 3,340 AIR RAID WARNINGS

3,340 ears printed on sheets of display material



The 3,340 alerts over Malta totalled 2,357 hours and 6 minutes. The first took place on 11th June, 1940, at 6.55am., whilst the sirens sounded the last alert on 28th August, 1944 at 8.43 pm. These enormous dug-outs provided shelter for the whole town of Birgu in the Grand Harbour area of Malta.

The installation occupies three spaces and visitors had to meander through several sheets of display material hanging from the ceilings. Nowadays, these minimal cells display a monastic quality, a far cry from the tumultuous times of WW2.

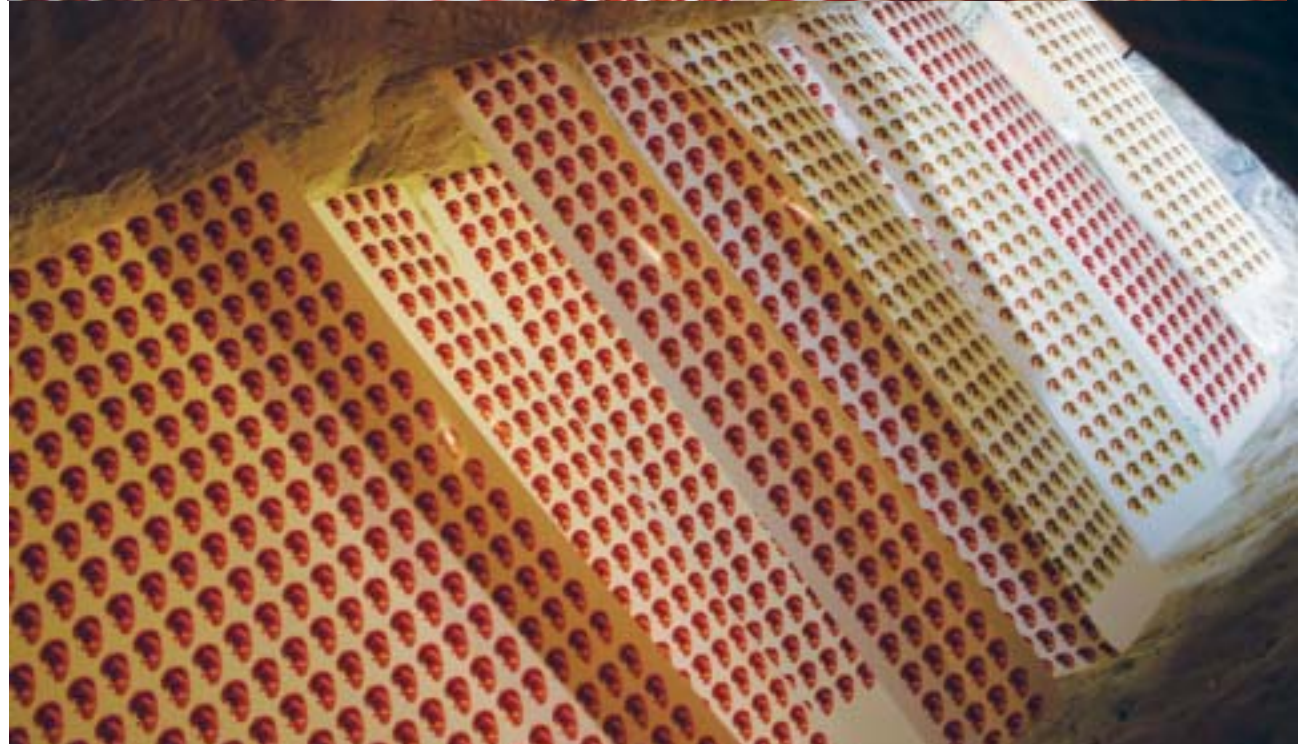
Disconnecting the spectators from their every day surroundings and transporting them to a place of contemplation where display transparencies show the same ear, repeatedly, now turns into a showroom of inaudible experience.



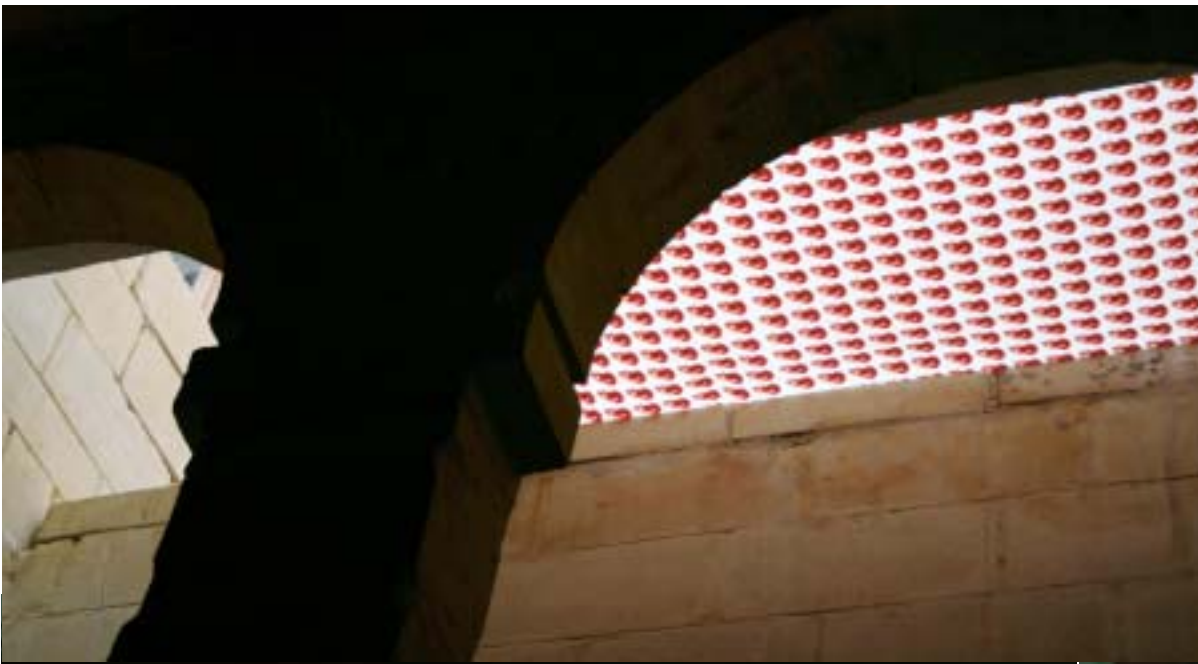
This show was open to the public for two months and a closing down event was organised to launch the publication containing all the works by the participating artists.

During the closing down event the public was invited to intervene on the work by spraying water on the sheets thus dissolving the various images of the ear. *See plate next page.*

Parts were scissored off and given as a momento.







The project was extended to the Capital City, Valletta and other neighbouring harbour towns like Senglea, heavily bombed during WW2.

