



FLAT BELLS Alexandre Estrela Nov 4, 2023—Jan 7, 2024
The Museum of Modern Art 11W 53 Street, New York, NY 10019 moma.org

TO THOSE WHO ENTER FLAT BELLS
SEARCHING FOR A GONG BATH IN A DREAM HOUSE,
A WORD OF WARNING

The sound and images you're experiencing are neither celestial nor supernatural but the echoes of the extraordinary existence of an artificial organism. If by chance contact with its chiming oscillations triggers deep relaxation, rest assured this is entirely unintentional. Truth be told, whether or not with therapeutic intent, the effects of prolonged exposure are unpredictable.

It's not unusual, however, to find yourself drawn to the concerted performance of this colony of flat bells. The equilibrium of the colony is conditioned by its own circadian cycle, and the disposition of each individual to collaborate, drift, or sleep. However, bear in mind that the bells' behavior is colored by volatile humor.

Its game of life is a simple algorithm, but the hazards of coexistence generate a complex code of musically inclined signs, which can be understood as a new visual language or as a post-dodecaphonic, post-minimal, post-concrete form of music. However, we must reiterate our warning (although we have not done so before): this is purely coincidental.

On a last note, the oscillating movement of the bells produces shimmering electrified shadows that may disturb reason to the extent that all that is false becomes concrete.