



Yerevan in (H)Our Hands

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Abstract

- YEREVAN IN (H)OUR HANDS sheds light on the atemporal process of creating a chronological meaning through interviews conducted with people who have been and are living in Yerevan.
- It tackles the contrasts and similarities of a city in different timelines and how these factors help in creating the story. The research is achieved by asking odd yet familiar questions to foreign and local Yerevantsis. The study is portrayed through an artistic process that materializes in the form of a soundwalk.
- It is an attempt to conceptualize a soundspace and to create a general meaning out of individual stories and experiences to introduce the culture of the city throughout time to whoever has and has not experienced the culture. Additionally, it shows the essentiality of time and space in an individual's life by giving meanings to them that can be shared through this soundwalk project.

Introduction

The songs about Yerevan have created a bond between Armenians and their capital city throughout the years. Songwriters always located special themes in their songs about Yerevan, especially the passion and love towards the city. Songs such as “Yerevan” (1973), “Jan Yerevan” (1981), “Garun Yerevan” (1989) are some of the famous songs that people across generations know and associate themselves with through nostalgia and warm feelings. Since Armenia was a part of the Soviet Union, some of the songs are also translated into Russian and mostly remembered by those people who lived during that period.



Key Terms and Definitions

Yerevantsi: A person who was born in Yerevan or lived in Yerevan for a long time, although not necessarily living there nowadays.

Literature Review

In my capstone project, I look at how Yerevantsis managed to protect their memories and their association with the city. Songs by well-known local musicians, songwriters, performers like Artashes Avetyan, Georgy Minasyan, Sergey Davidyan, Forsh, Ruben Hakhverdyan, etc., always have a special place in the soul of Yerevantsis and remind them of different events in their childhood and adulthood. In my research study, I try to discover the role of songs about Yerevan, certain places, and the memories behind them that shape people's memories and love towards their city.

Literature Review

The Connection Between Places and Memories

Songs as Trigger of Memories

The love towards Yerevan

Documenting Memories

Research Questions

What is the relationship between place and memory?

How do we think about and remember certain places?

How can songs heighten the sense of oneself in a particular place and time?

What is the significance of songs that makes us remember Yerevan?

Methodology

The experience I gained during the oral history class at AUA helped me to come up with the idea of using oral history as a methodological tool for my research and conduct five in-depth interviews. To me, oral history interviews allow people to talk about sensitive issues from more of a personal angle and those stories are different from simple conversations.

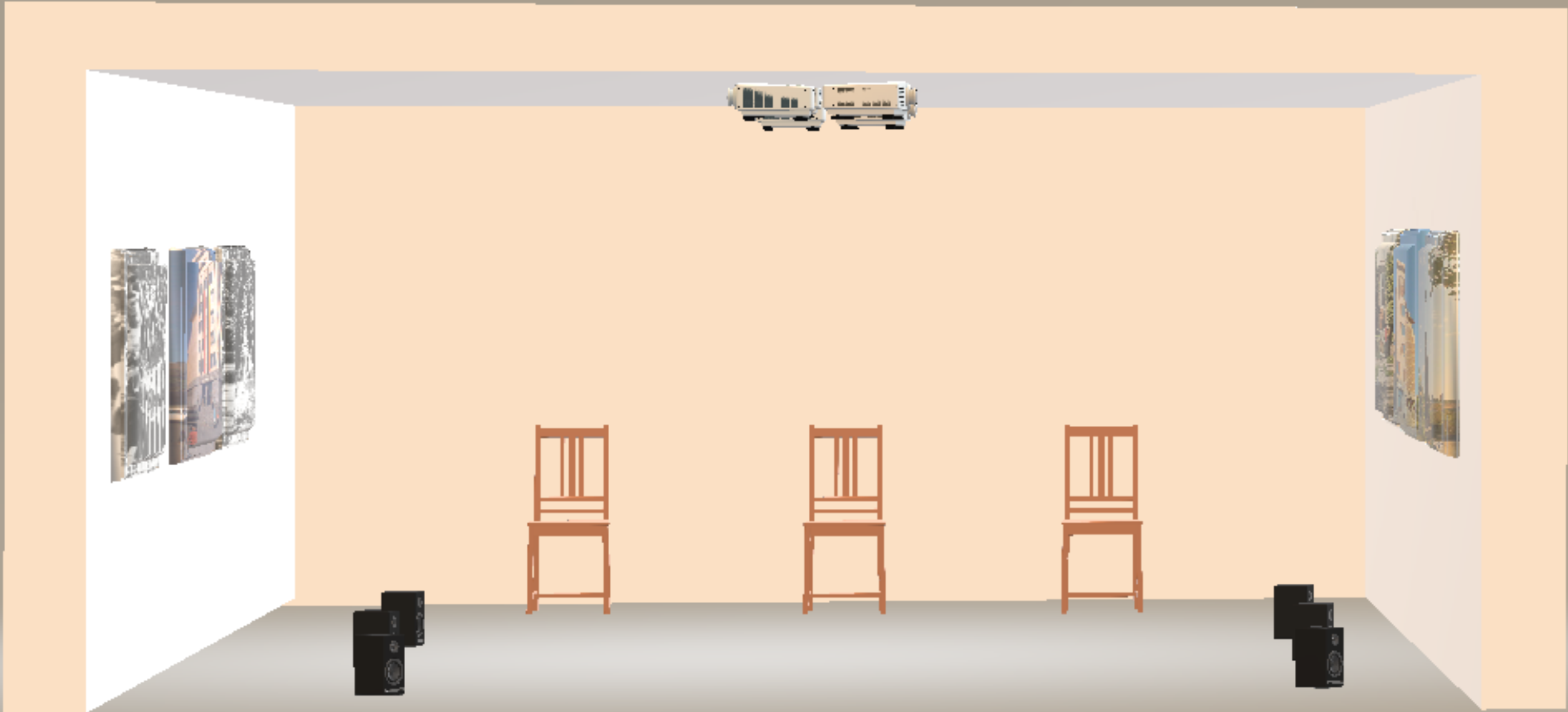
Soundwalk Installation



Soundwalk Installation

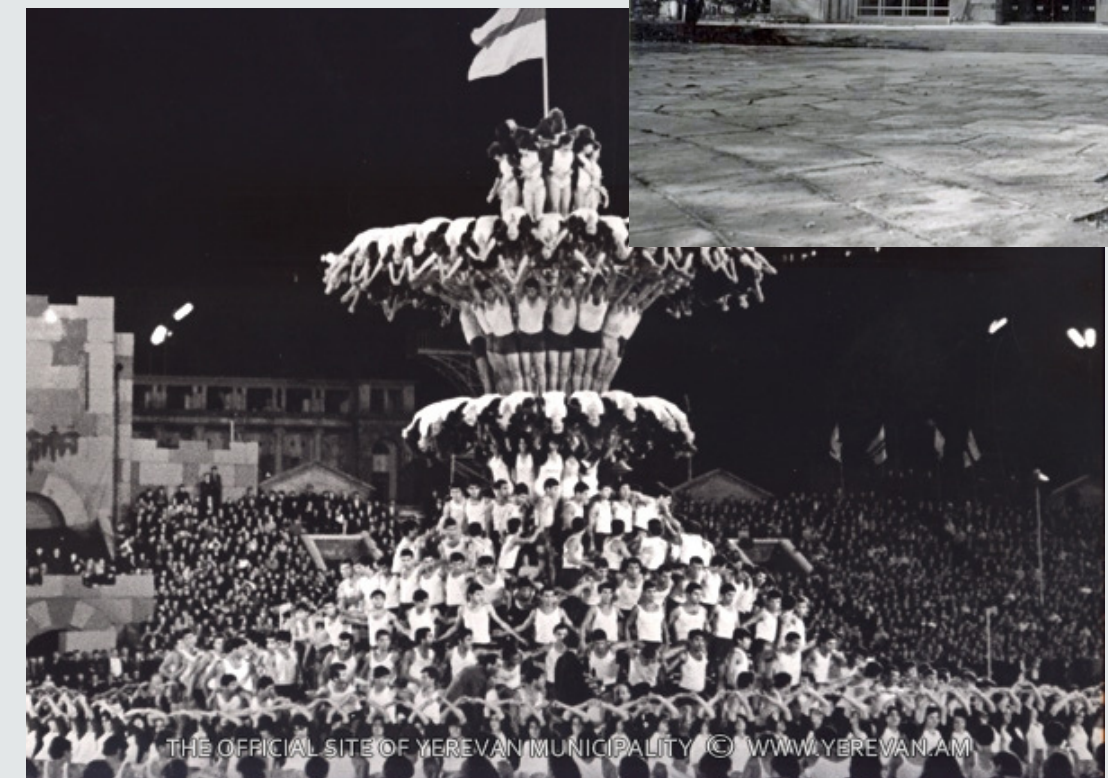


Soundwalk Installation



I chose to create a soundscape concept because I wanted to bring together the contrast between two Yerevans, focusing on the one Yerevan we have through people's memories. Using the songs from the past and now, listening to people's memories from the two different eras, and walking through the city will help reflect on the memories associated with the places.

Participants watch two scenes in a video and hear old and more recent songs about Yerevan. Each of the videos is played simultaneously so that the audience gets the feeling that the songs are projected across time. The songs communicate with the memories of the audience and the places communicate with their emotions.





Thank You!