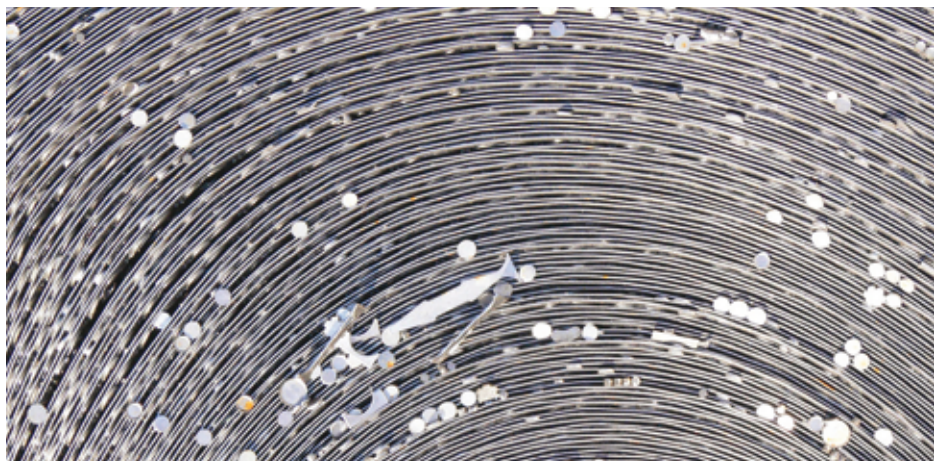


# Acoustic Trash

## Why I like Trash

Elisabeth Flunger is a percussionist, composer and performer and lives in Luxemburg. Her favourite instrument is a collection of trash metal objects, used in concerts, installations and performances. For these instruments she developed appropriate playing techniques and created a series of solo piece. For IUEOA she wrote about her view on trash. [eflunger.com](http://eflunger.com)



⇒ Trash looks beautiful.

Trash is cheap.

Trash is everywhere.

Trash is lying on the street, just pick it up.  
“That way, I only wanted to kill my time.”  
Marcel Duchamp

Trash tells many stories.

Trash is easy to handle. It needs no tuning,  
no support, no electricity.

Trash fits in a suitcase. Gone are the days  
when I went to concerts with a truck and  
two assistants.

Trash can't get broken, it is already broken.

Trash is the Wild Thing.  
No, it is the abandoned.

Trash is garbage.  
We're living in the Age of Garbage.

Trash is a toy.

## How to play music with trash

**Playing instruction #1:**  
Throw all your trash in a box.

**Playing instruction #2:**  
Empty the box on the floor.

**Playing instruction #3:**  
Rock the trash pile and enjoy the patterns,  
repetitions and irregularities.

“If you celebrate it, it's art, if you don't, it isn't.”  
John Cage.

**Playing instruction #4:**  
Beat the trash until the pieces don't touch each  
other any more.

**Playing instruction #5:**  
Build a tower.

**Playing instruction #6:**  
Push the trash pile along the room, paying  
attention not to lose anything.

“Work, strenuous, intensive work, which tasks  
you with all your brain and nerves, after all is  
the major joy in life.”  
Rosa Luxemburg

**Playing instruction #7:**  
Push the trash pile along the room, losing one  
object every 50 cm.

**Playing instruction #8:**  
With a metal bar, follow your route, touching  
the objects on the way. Be a SUV.

**Playing instruction #9:**  
Kick the objects, let them slide everywhere.  
“Play them anyway you like!”  
John Oswald

**Playing instruction #10:**  
Whatever you do, listen.



“Also deconstruction or rather destruction  
is an experience of appropriation, and this  
destructive appropriation is called (and calls  
you) to «open your ear».”  
Jacques Derrida

Trash is headstrong.  
It does what it wants to do, it bounces, it  
waggles, it slips, it topples.  
It does not follow the rules of control, of  
virtuosity, of performance.

Trash sounds nice.

Trash does not sound like a drum set.  
It prevents from musical stereotypes and  
macho attitude.

Trash does not sound like a xylophone.

This is the least I expect from a musical  
instrument.

Sometimes, trash sounds like a piano.  
Nobody is perfect.

You can even play jazz on it.  
But, you know: this activity may seriously harm  
you and others around you.

Trash sounds microtonal.  
Isn't it glamorous?

Trash is able to produce loops and patterns.  
It is a minimal machine.

“So what is art but personalizing found objects?”  
Morton Feldman