SONAMBIENTE BERLIN 2006

What do the former Polish Embassy on Unter den Linden, the Dresdner Bank on Pariser Platz, Berlin's Akademie der Künste, and the World Cup have in common? They're all part of the month-and-a-half long sonambiente berlin 2006 festival of klang kunst (sound art). Exhibits from over 40 internationally renowned artists including Berlin-based Candice Breitz - who produced a 30-part video homage to Bob Marley (photo) - will be showcased at the above locations and at other venues all around the city. But what exactly is klang kunst? It can be anything, really, from the sound of rowdy fans cheering at a football game, to a radio broadcast, to a concert, a film, or a website. The festival kicks off with three days of performances and concerts at the Haus der Berliner Festspiele, and continues with film showings and events like the light and sound show by Viennese artists at the Potsdamer Platz station. In case you're worried, no, the festival's organizers didn't overlook the fact that the sonambiente is going to overlap with the World Cup. Instead, they took advantage of it. All the matches will be broadcast live from a special sound art lounge - designed by Kalle Laar and entirely football-themed - in the Haus der Berliner Festspiele. And, you never know, you yourself might even become a part of an exhibit when the "Public Radio" project rolls through Berlin - in a shopping cart - and broadcasts the sounds of the city./CV

Sonambiente Berlin 2006, www.sonambiente.net. Through July 16

