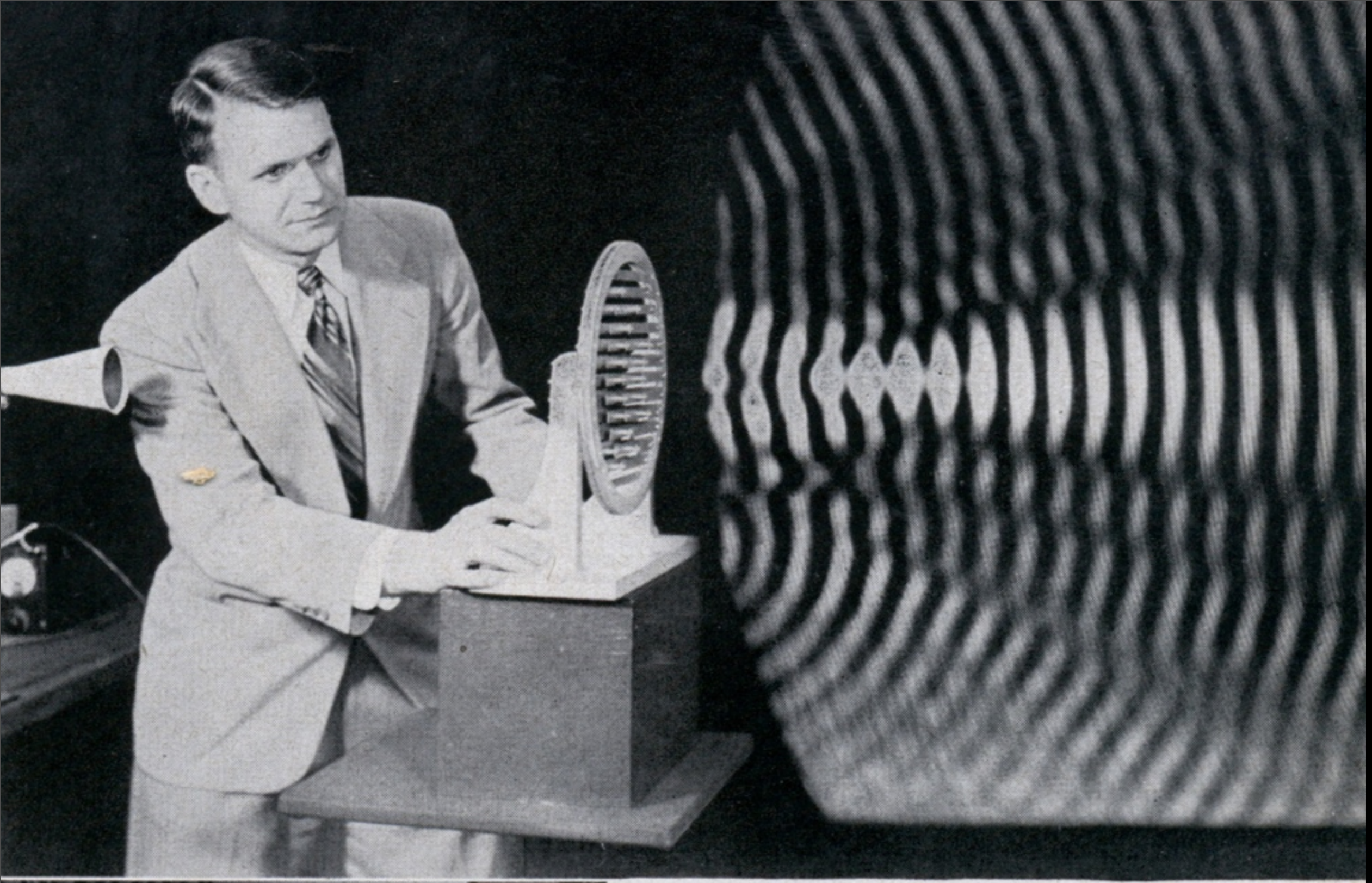
Sound and The City: Sound and Urban Intervention

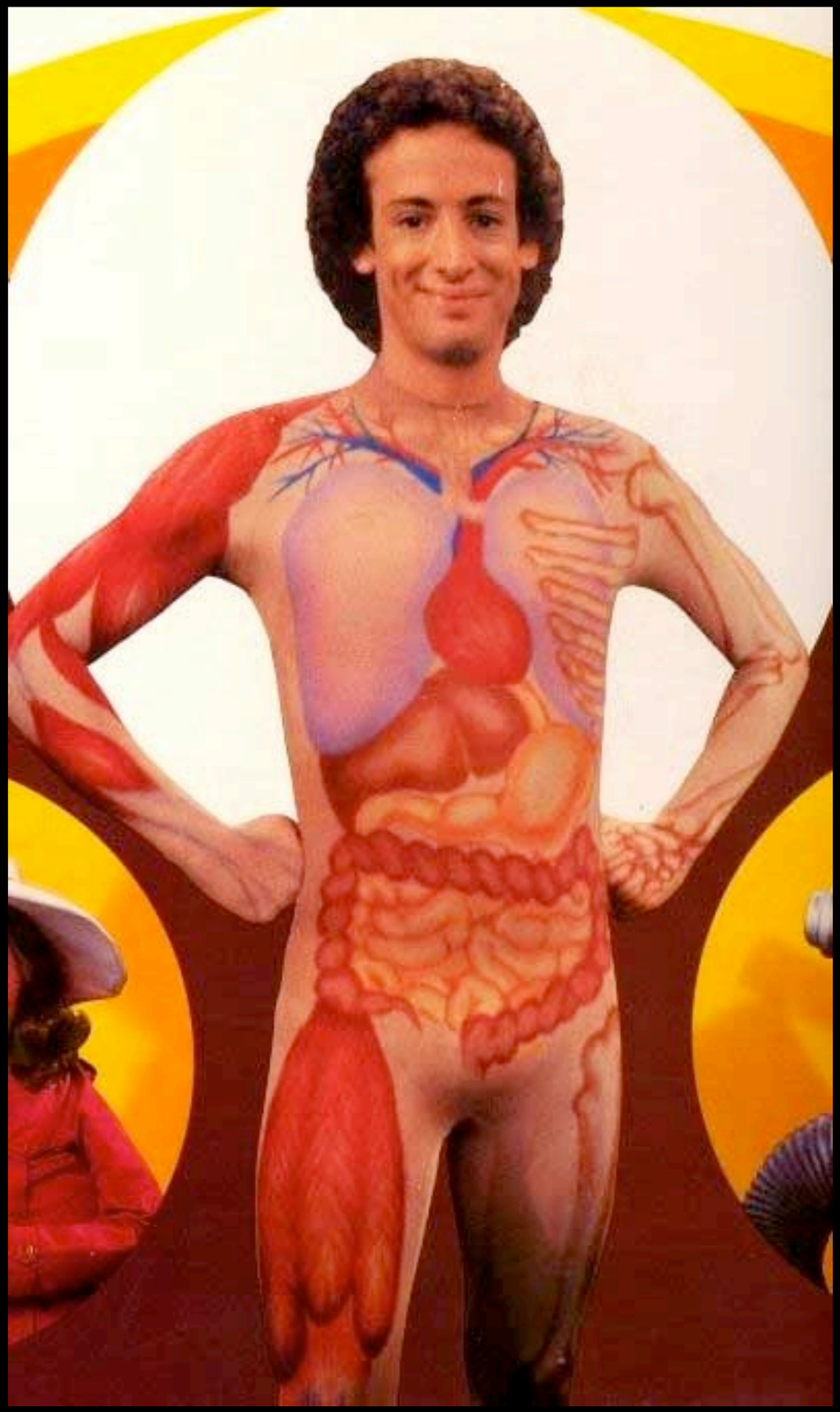
@ITP: Spring 2011

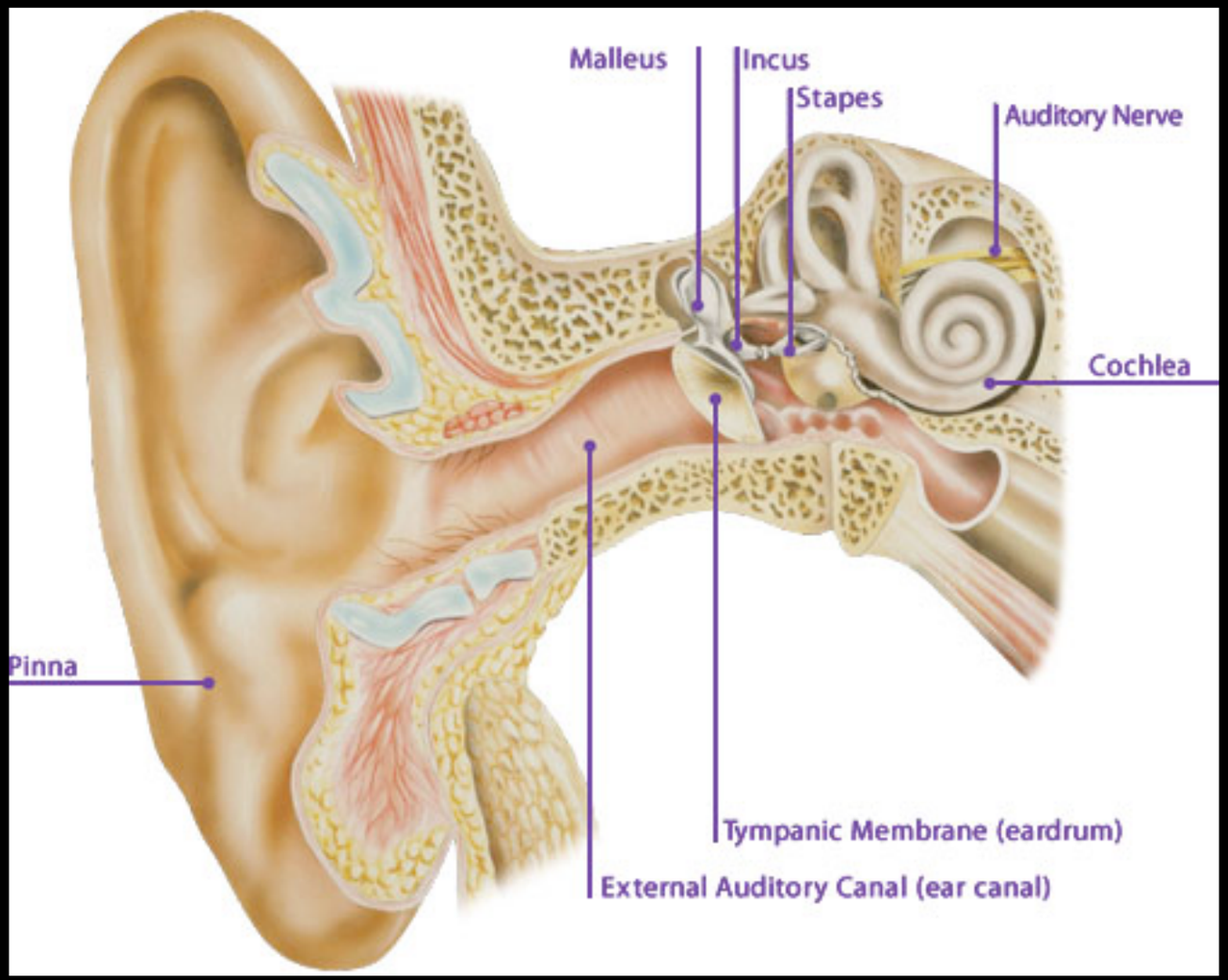
Cave painting, Lascaux, France, 15,000 to 10,000 B.C.



Neon Lamp Traces Sound Wave's Picture

THAT's a sound wave you see in the pic-




Malleus
Incus
Stapes
Auditory Nerve
Cochlea
Pinna
Tympanic Membrane (eardrum)
External Auditory Canal (ear canal)

Origins

- **Rilke:** In his 1919 essay "Primal Sound," the skull "The coronal structure of the skull (this would first have to be investigated) has–let us assume–a certain similarity to the close wavy line which the needle of a phonograph engraves on the receiving, rotating cylinder of the apparatus." run a phonograph needle across these ridges on the skull, producing "a series of sounds, music…" See F. Kittler *Gramophone, Film, Typewriter*

Listening vs. Hearing

- Pauline Oliveiros: Deep Listening. “listening to listening”
- Soundscape "All of the waveforms faithfully transmitted to our audio cortex by the ear and its mechanisms".

Political Listening

- Who is listening
- What are you listening to?
- What are you ignoring or refusing to listen to?
- To make the perception of space a conscious act, then to articulate this listening in culture (laBelle): Towards A politics of listening

shhh....

- Deep listening exercise 1

Soundscape

- Murray Schafer: Soundscape
  - Keynote sounds

  This is a musical term that identifies the key of a piece, not always audible… the key might stray from the original, but it will return. The keynote sounds may not always be heard consciously, but they "outline the character of the people living there". They are created by nature (geography and climate): wind, water, forests, plains, birds, insects, animals. In many urban areas, traffic has become the keynote sound.

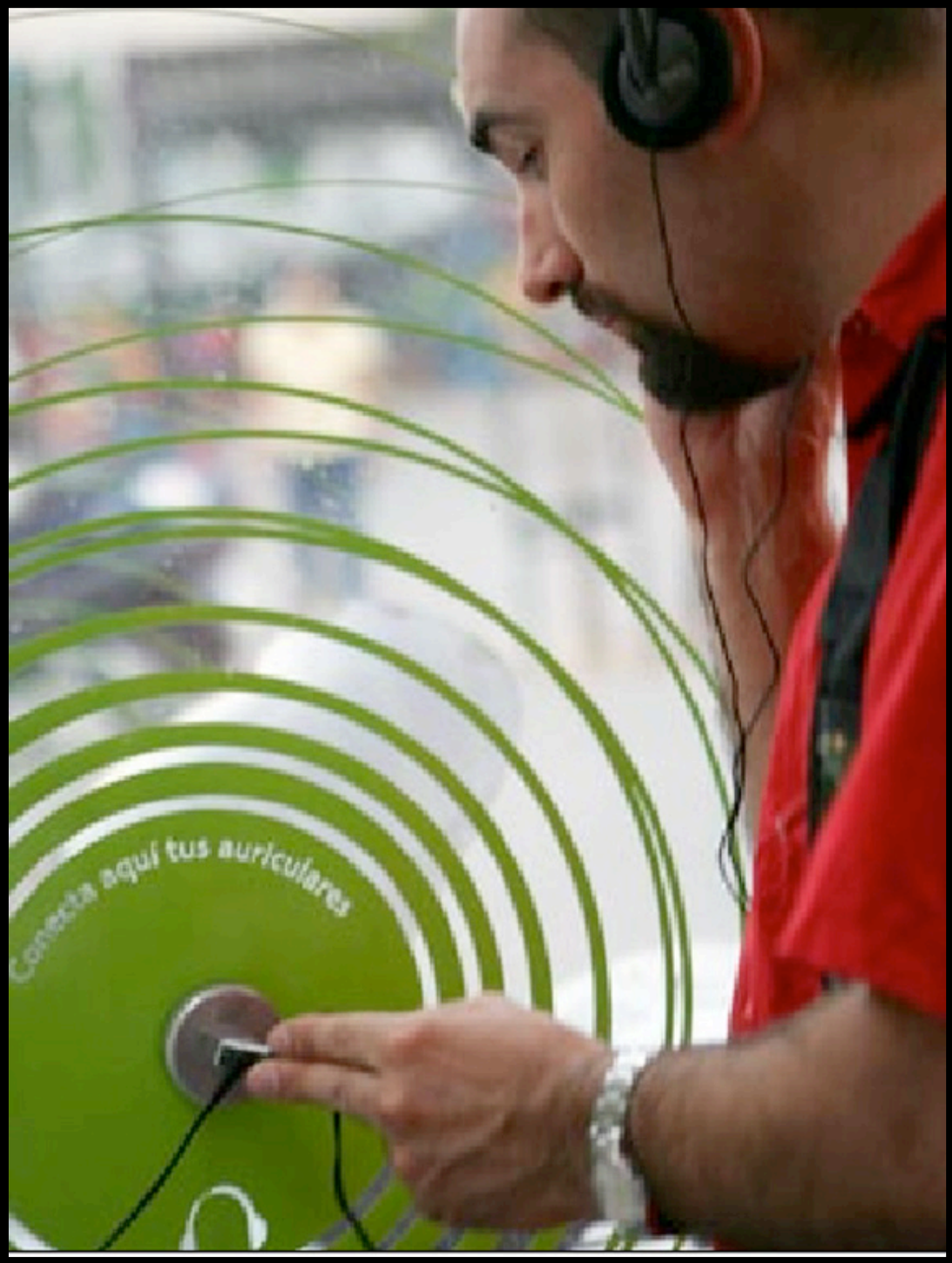
- Sound signals

  These are foreground sounds, which are listened to consciously; examples would be warning devices, bells, whistles, horns, sirens, etc.
- Soundmark

  This is derived from the term *landmark*. A soundmark is a sound which is unique to an area.

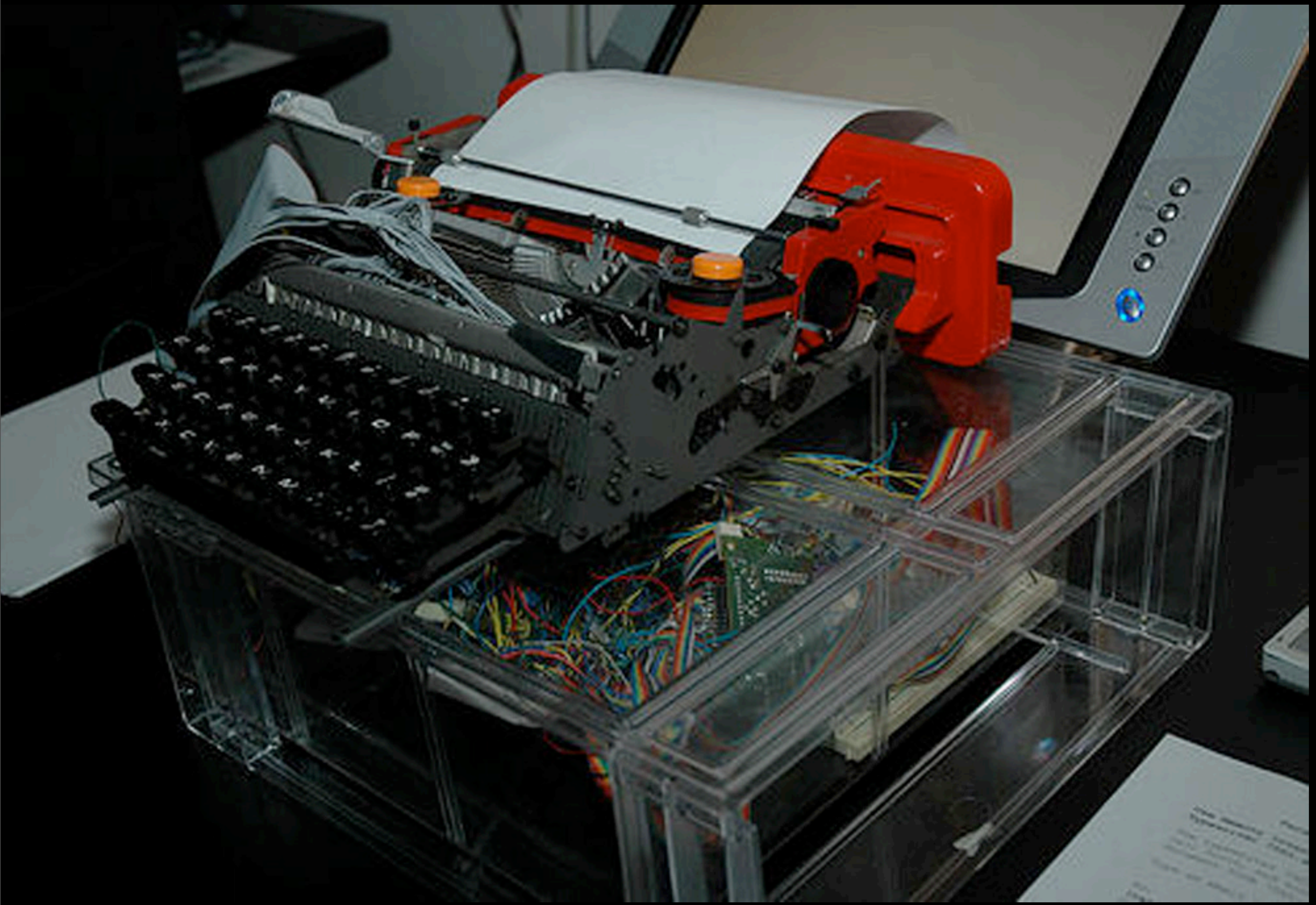
The Everyday

virafone



ATENCIO
PUERTA DEL SC
CORTADA

dance faster



Coca-Cola
vivela

- Assignment 1: Deep listening recording of your site, New York.