Moving beyond the iconic architecture of Berlin’s Philharmonie, Lynne Marsh creates a virtual space for an orchestra to perform. Marsh’s work about technicians working within the cramped space of the recording booth captures the mechanics at work. The filmed spaces, the filmed performances, and the people in them are what Marsh’s work is about. 

To understand this proposition, first consider what Marsh doesn’t show. Viewers of The Philharmonie Project (Nielsen: Symphony No. 5) (2011) never see an orchestra perform. Instead, we are presented with a tightly choreographed incidental images of the orchestra playing —for the shot; as the frame slides by. On one side, we see empty chairs and sheet music that substitutes the intended subject—the orchestra. The soundtrack unifies these disjointed elements, broadcasting Nielsen’s Symphony No. 5. The space Marsh illuminates is the design of the architect team June 14. The Philharmonie building, a space and place that Marsh has committed to understanding and to a leader of centering. Shaping realities in the experience of performance. Marsh brings together: the filmed spaces, the filmed performances, and the people in them. Marsh’s work about the orchestra’s relation to what happens behind the scenes is the embodiment of our attention. 

Notes on Gesture
Giorgio Agamben

In his text, Agamben writes: “an idea is a constellation in articulating a space within which phenomena aggregate.” Marsh’s space is a two-channel video installation about the Berlin’s Philharmonie building, a place and space that Marsh has committed to understanding and to a leader of centering. Shaping realities in the experience of performance. Marsh brings together: the filmed spaces, the filmed performances, and the people in them. Marsh’s work about the orchestra’s relation to what happens behind the scenes is the embodiment of our attention.

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The Philharmonie Project (Nielsen: Symphony No. 5)

by Lynne Marsh

Architecture by June Meyer-Grohbrügge & Chermayeff with Alexander Menke

October 27 – December 17, 2011

PROGRAM – initiative for art and architecture collaborations

Concert Recording of:

Carl Nielsen Symphony Nr. 5 op. 50

Performed by the Berliner Philharmoniker

Conducted by David Zinman

January 15, 2011

Special thank you to the Berliner Philharmoniker Digital Concert Hall Team for their gracious participation.

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In cooperation with the Embassy of Canada.

Lynne Marsh is a Canadian artist working between London, Berlin and Montréal. Documentation of her work can be found at www.lynnemarsh.net. Installation shot, photograph by David Brandt.

Right: video still; Opposite cover: production shot, photography by Uta Kogelsberger.