

# THE RUTGERS REVIEW

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## Generator: a new sound wave

By Daniel Triana

Imagine yourself walking through a music gallery and hearing sounds the way a person walks through a museum and sees paintings. This was the dream of Ken Montgomery, and in June 1989 he founded Generator, an experimental music gallery in New York City.

According to Montgomery, Generator was "a place for the general public to come and experience contemporary music in the form of cassette concerts, performances, recordings and audio art." He went on to further explain cassette concerts as "compositions where individual sounds are recorded on separate cassettes to be used in live performances to create an environment of sound that is spatial, dynamic, and dramatic." In using the same source material, cassette concerts may vary from performance to performance.

The location of generator was originally at East Third Street, but then became mobile with events held at various venues throughout New York City. Currently, Montgomery is seeking funding to establish a permanent location in a "remote place, without the pressures of New York."

For those of us who were unable to attend the performances, Montgomery has made available a

"Live at Generator Cassette Series". Each package in the series contains a chrome tape, photograph, and story of the specific event. There are 41 different packages available in the series featuring audio artists from the US and Europe.

Montgomery has been an audio artist since 1980 with a special interest in what he calls "the use of sound to create space." He started the Generations Unlimited record label in 1987, a label which promotes and publishes "dramatic electronic music." The label has since released 6 albums and various cassettes. Since 1984, Montgomery has been actively working on cassette concerts with the Berlin composer Conrad Schnitzler, a former member of Tangerine Dream.

Currently, Montgomery has been working on what he referred to as "music pieces designed to be performed for one person." He believes listening is a highly personal experience and expressed his desire to create "a place that has individual listening booths."

The future of Montgomery and Generator remains to be seen, until then an entire catalog of audio art history is available for the asking. Formats available include cassettes, CDs, LPs and video. Write to: Generator 151 first Ave #201 New York City, N.Y. 10003.