

# ARTnews

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“The Year in Sound: Writings, Recordings, and Performances of Artful Aurality in 2019”

By Andy Battaglia

Ears figure into art as much as eyes or any other organ, and it's only been for the better that sound and music-related work has made its way more and more into museums, galleries, and institutions of other kinds in recent years. Whether through performance, recordings, or evocations of different varieties, sound rewards close attention and pays it back with sense memories that are good to store. What follows is a list of some of my favorite sound-related offerings from around the art world in 2019.

***Last Night, Martin Beck*** (White Columns)

Reissued this year by White Columns in a “revised second edition,” Martin Beck’s beautifully simple artist book *Last Night* tells a story by way of nothing but a list of records played by David Mancuso (the proto-DJ who invented disco, by many measures) at the final Loft party at 99 Prince Street in SoHo in 1984. The Loft continues on at a different location and with mythology still in store (even after Mancuso died in 2016), and engaging with Beck’s book makes for a special kind of experience—with the slow flipping of pages evoking a long night out on the dance floor.