Elevator Music 6: SilvaGunner
Curated by Juno Zago

Oct 5 - Nov 22, 2019
Gallery Aferro Elevator Installation
73 Market Street, Newark

OPENING RECEPTION
October 5th, 2019
7pm - 10pm

GALLERY HOURS
Wednesday - Saturday
12pm - 6pm
and by appointment

Elevator Music is a continuous rotation of experimental sound art curated for the permanent Elevator Music installation on the second floor of Gallery Aferro. The installation is comprised of a very early Otis Elevator (single digit) from the early 1900s excavated from the basement of Gallery Aferro’s facilities at 73 Market Street. The Elevator was cleaned up, refurbished and equipped with a motion sensor-activated media player. Guests enter the elevator and the audio-works are activated, analogous to the ways we may enter a functioning elevator ready to deliver us to our desired (or undesired) destination.

Elevator Music is a space where audio works can become accessible within a visual arts gallery experience. Over the years the installation has taken on many forms, from musical mix-tapes to experimental “studio sounds.” Currently in its sixth iteration, entering Elevator Music brings the viewer to a new, personal space to listen and reflect on alternative forms of creative expression.
SiIvaGunner is a YouTube channel that claims to “only upload high-quality video game rips” (rips = music files extracted straight from the game itself). In reality, SiIvaGunner uploads remixes of video game music, advertising them as the original tracks. A plethora of artists behind the 10,000+ uploads on the channel unite their creative interests and talents into a non-profit project out of their spare time. The remixes can range from well-known pop songs to obscure inside jokes, and even original compositions.

The main theme of the channel involves blending more popular and recognizable songs with complex structures into the simple melodies of songs from video games. The beauty of video game music is they are designed to not be distracting while you are playing the games when one needs to focus, while still lending to the theme of what you are playing. Thanks to the simple structure of video game music, this makes the process of blending and mixing separate, external songs as though they were meant to be together. That is what makes SiIvaGunner so successful—subverting expectations of how the originals sound into something different, yet familiar in a fun and creative way.

SiIvaGunner’s music can be heard on their YouTube channel and purchased via their Bandcamp page.