

Press release 20.11.2006  
Free for publication



## **Record audiences at Avanto**

### **The festival of experimental music and film well received again**

Avanto festival, which ended on Sunday, inspired a record audience to explore experimental music and film. The three-day-long event attracted nearly 4000 spectators, a 25% increase from the previous year. Among the audience favourites were the **Sähkömetsä (Electric Forest)** programme of early Finnish experimental film as well as the New Yorker **Tony Conrad**, one of the pioneers of experimental film and music.

The single most popular show in Avanto was **Lee Ranaldo's** and **Leah Singer's** joint performance *Drift*, which filled the Kiasma Theatre to its last seat. The festival's opening concert, in which the audience enjoyed both Tony Conrad's films and his hypnotic violin music, was also sold out. In Cinema Orion the average audience per screening was doubled with the Sähkömetsä programme as well as Tony Conrad's films. Audience records were broken at the Friday's and Saturday's Avanto clubs as well.

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