

Michelangelo's Empire Turbine (2020) for ratchet. Duration 5' minutes.

*Empire Turbine* was composed in the spring of 2020 for a modified amplified ratchet. The modifications include the integration of a bow stick to enhance the instrument's gestural agility and sonic control. The inspiration for this composition traces back to the summer of 2019, during a visit to an old airport hangar in Querétaro, Mexico. Within the vast space of the hangar, I encountered a captivating symphony of sounds: rattles, squeaks, shakes, bangs, whizzes, and gliding tones, all intricately layered. The primary sources of these sounds were the two enormous gates and, most strikingly, the four wind-driven turbine ventilators spinning on the ceiling. The reverberant acoustics of the hangar amplified and enriched these textures, creating an unforgettable auditory experience.

In the studio, I sought to recreate and reimagine this intricate soundscape. The ratchet, with some adjustments, became the perfect instrument to capture this sonic palette. I performed, recorded and explored the ratchet in unusual ways, resynthesizing and transforming the sound models from my original experience while crafting a sonic journey infused with both musical and extra-musical associations.

The title *Empire Turbine* evolved organically during the creative process. It was inspired by the brand name "Empire," a company that manufactures turbine ventilators. Additionally, a pivotal moment in the piece features the performer using their index fingertip to manipulate the ratchet's wheel, evoking a visual and conceptual connection to Michelangelo's *The Creation of Adam*—specifically, the iconic touch of Adam's hand.

This piece stands as an exploration of transformation, memory, and the fusion of mechanical and organic sounds into a unified sonic experience.