



Protect your ears!, Taipei



Protect Your Ears!

During a residency in Taipei I found myself living in an extremely noise polluted area. On every possible side there was heavy traffic. This made me almost crazy at certain times and the ear protection campaign against noise pollution was the obvious outcome of a miserable situation.

If people are exposed to very noisy environments (81 dB or more), ear protection are necessary to prevent ear damage. If the level of noise is 70 - 83 dB (such as in traffic areas) the maximum daily exposure time would be 8 hours without getting problems. But, if the noise level is 90-100 dB (for example when using power tools) the maximum exposure would be only 30 minutes. When the sound level is 101-120 dB (during concerts), the ears will suffer in only 7 minutes. I want to make people aware of these dangers!

Taiwan is the main producer of hearing protection such as earmuffs and earplugs, but all the ear protection is exported to Europe or the States. I visited one of the factories in Taipei and discussed the situation in Asia. The manager of the factory believed that the government needs to make a law before people becomes aware of the damages caused by noisy environments.

Obviously we can not all move into wilderness and live in silence within the nature and the government works slowly, so I needed to think on an other solution and most of all make people aware of the damages caused by everyday noise. I started to make beautiful earmuffs that would be fancy to wear. We are all a bit vain and ear protection fashion is a very underdeveloped business.

The Artist Village, Taipei, Taiwan

