RESONANT BEATS – project proposal

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The human heart beats over 115,000 times a day, a thankless and persistent job that goes largely unnoticed. This internal rhythm is responsible for, and necessary to, our continued existence, and it is a tempo we collectively share. Internally, it expresses some of our most primal emotions - fear, love, excitement - but rarely are we aware of our own pulse, and almost never are we privy to the cadence of the hearts of others.

Resonant Beats is a series of two interactive sculptures made to translate the viewer's interior tempo into a form we can all understand, share and engage with.

Each piece consists of a low steel plinth to which large vertical chimes are attached; these chimes are each rigged with a solenoid-activated mallet. The viewer / participant attaches to their fingertip an optical pulse sensor - much like the doctor's office - which connects them to the sculpture. The piece reads your heart's beating and transforms each pulsation into a resonating, powerful strike of the chime. Though the work, your internal and unnoticed inner cadence can control the room with sound and motion.
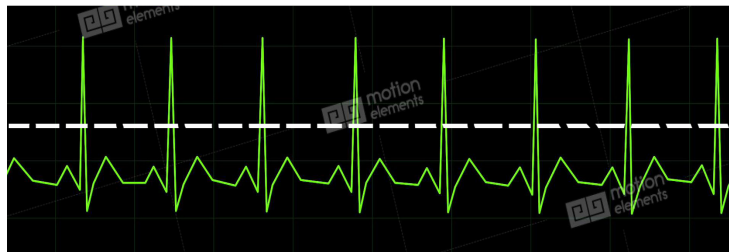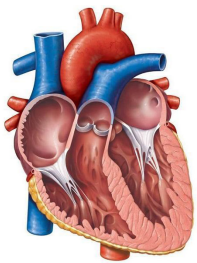
With two of the pieces placed in the same space, there can be a conversation, a resonance, between two viewer's hearts, their private rhythms, and their personal feelings.

With these sculptures, I am striving to create a new way to look at, and understand, how our bodies invisibly operate influencing our actions, emotions, communication and in – in essence – ourselves without any acknowledgement.

Resonant Beats - Installation View

HOW "RESONANT BEATS"WORKS

1. The viewers heart
pumps blood through
their body. This change
in blood pressure is
measureable by the
optical sensor in the
piece, that the viewer
 wears

2. The microcontroller inside the piece
listens to that signal for your heartbeat

3. Your heartbeat activates a mallet
to strike the chime, your inner rhythm
is now audible, visible and shareable.