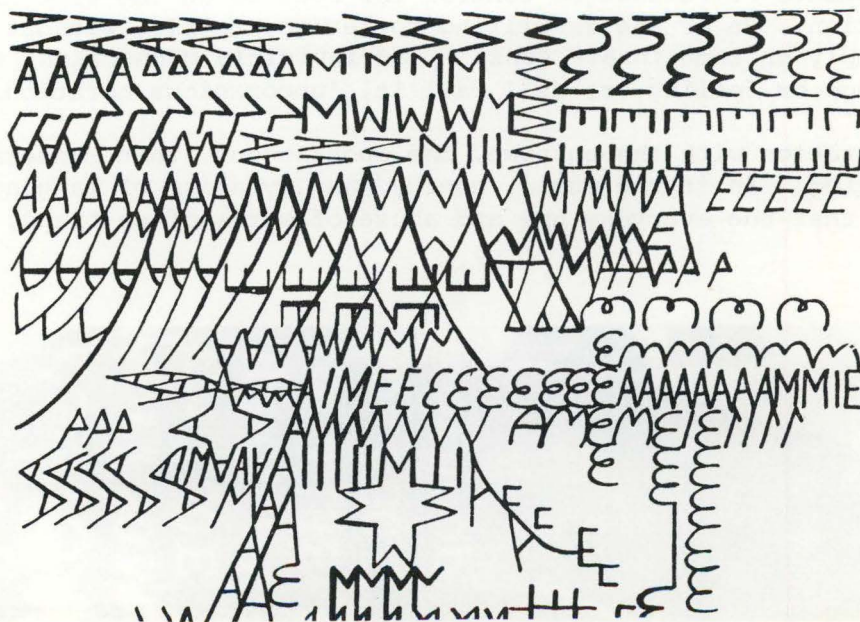


R. Murray Schafer / URSOUND : a fragment
(Open Letter 4/ 4&5 1979)

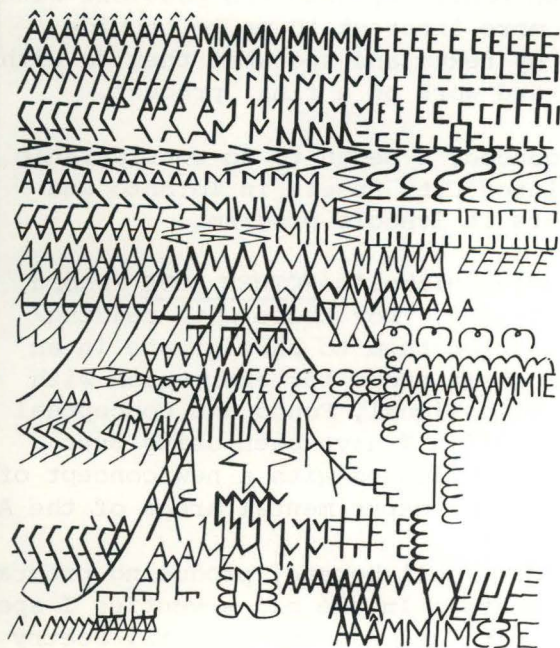
Sound is the original creative force. To make sound is to participate in the original unconscious urge to shape within the voice. The fastest method of getting action is still by speech. This making is instinctive and immediate. Often it is unpredictable. Always it precedes vision. When vision enters it has already ended, as our survey of cosmogonic myths has made clear.

The acoustic God shapes; the visual God analyses. The visual experience is always focused and reflective, which makes it verifiable in ways that sound is not. We fear we have lost this divine force. Desperately we twist everything, hoping that by fixing life for inspection it will return. But the moving force persists elusively. To find it we must return to the waters of instinct and the unshatterable unity of the unconscious, letting the long waves of Ursound sweep us beneath the surface where, listening blindly to our ancestors and the wild creatures, we will feel the surge within us again, in our speaking and in our music.



/DETAIL 'SMOKE (a Novel)'

SOMETIMES WE SPENT WHOLE DAYS
REPEATING ONE WORD, GRADUALLY
REVEALING NEW ASPECTS OF ITS
MEANING...



LISTEN!

SSSSSTEALL INTO OUR ROOOOM
AND LLLLLISSSSSESTEN TOOOO
THTHE WHWHWHISSSSSSSPER
OF SSSSSSSILLLLLLLK ANNNNNND
SSSSSSSSSATINNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNN

SHSHSHSHSH

FFFFFFFE

SSSSSSSS.....SSS.....

.....THTHTHTH.....FFF

HHHHHH.....SSS.....