



There is no science without fancy and no art without facts. Vladimir Nabakov

DOVE BRADSHAW

Radio Rocks

1998/2006

Permanent installation commissioned by the Baronessa Lucrezia Durini

For the town of Bolognano, Italy

Local, world band shortwave, and microwave frequencies: 41 x 35 x 35 inches

Baronessa Lucrezia Durini commissioned the first permanent installation of *Radio Rocks* for the Second International Free Forum Bolognano in June, 2006. Durini, a patron of the arts and well known Joseph Beuys supporter, created permanent installations in the village by acquiring a dozen buildings and inviting celebrated artists to make works for vetrinas and store fronts. Each evening the works are illuminated until morning. The ancient town with its medieval streets and glass-encased tableaux evokes a Felliniesque experience. The filmmaker was born near by. The environs are further transformed by *Piantagione Paradise*, Beuys' utopian gesture to reinstate biodiversity by planting 7000 varieties of trees.

Radio Rocks is the only work dedicated to sound and occupies an enclosed vitrine in the central piazza. Speakers incorporated within the vitrine walls amplify the sound at a level that harmonizes with the quiet rippling of the nearby central fountain. By employing amulets of galena and pyrite crystals to access distant radio and microwaves, Bradshaw returns, in part, to one of her earliest bodies of work, *Reliquaries*, 1972-73. In these small glass-encased boxes she 'captured' detritus of artists, filmmakers and composers of particular significance to her to symbolize their spiritual power to inspire. Similarly, the murmur of her *Radio Rocks* accessing echoes of the Big Bang invokes the celestial harmonies that from the time of Pythagoras have been referred to as the "*Music of the Spheres*."