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## **Summer School with Seth Kim-Cohen**

Since time immemorial (or at least since the 1995 publication of Nick Hornby's novel, *High Fidelity*), rock and roll connoisseurs have made music listening and collecting into veritable art forms—and highly personal ones at that. This past Saturday at New York City's PS122, as part of the HOMEWORK collaborative's month-long series of alternative "Summer School" courses, sound artist Seth Kim-Cohen added his name to the list of sonic aficionados with an extensive listening session-cum-lecture, which he suitably titled, "Seven great rock music record albums and everything I can think of to say about them in the time it takes to listen to them." The catch, however, was that the artist discussed these albums as they played, via headphones, from his iPod. While visitors were encouraged to bring their own iPods and listen alongside the lecture, Kim-Cohen's stipulation shifted the nature of the event to emphasize the disjunctions between private experience, public speech, and collective listening.

The artist began the session with Bob Dylan's *Highway 61 Revisited* (1965) and ended it, roughly seven hours later, with *Second Edition* (1980), by Public Image Ltd., carving a highly informative and oddly affecting path through seven seminal albums along the way. Reveling at one moment in the "transgressive thrill" of the Velvet Underground's seventeen-minute "Sister Ray" and dispelling, at another, the many myths surrounding the Rolling Stones' "Sympathy for the Devil," Kim-Cohen was a hip, if slightly zany, pedagogist—in a mismatched plaid suit, notepad in hand, mind bursting with ideas. In short, the type of teacher we all aspire to be.

**Tyler Coburn 06-27-07**