

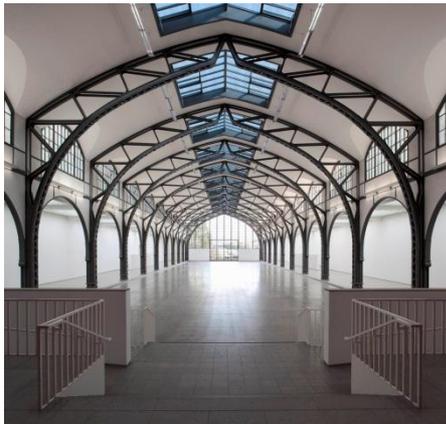
PRESS RELEASE, JANUARY 27, 2014

## SUSAN PHILIPSZ'S 'PART FILE SCORE' AT HAMBURGER BAHNHOF

Ernst Schering Foundation funds outstanding work by the Scottish Turner Prize winner

Press preview: January 31, 2014 at 11 a.m.

Opening: January 31, 2014 at 8 p.m. | Duration: January 01 – May 05, 2014



On January 31, 2014, the Hamburger Bahnhof will open an exhibition in its Historical Hall that is entirely devoted to concentrated listening. For her first institutional solo exhibition in Berlin, the Scottish artist **Susan Philipsz** has created a 24-channel sound installation that makes reference both to the building's former function as a train station and to the hall's architectural structure with its 12 archways. Philipsz links the former train station – as a site of departure and arrival, of separation and return – to the turbulent life of composer Hanns Eisler (1898-1962) who lived in Berlin in the 1920s and again in the 1950s.

*Part File Score* by Susan Philipsz is an outstanding example of a musical work created by an artist, a field that the **Ernst Schering Foundation** is especially committed to supporting. After Carsten Nicolai's [syn chron](#) (Neue Nationalgalerie, 2005) and Ryoji Ikeda's [db](#) (Hamburger Bahnhof, 2012) this is the third funding for the association Freunde Guter Musik Berlin e.V., which has implemented the series "Works of Music by Visual Artists". In addition to other exhibitions like Carsten Nicolai's [rota](#) (Ernst Schering Foundation, 2009) as well as William Engelen's [Music Box](#), we also provide long-term support for music in contemporary art through the [acquisition of contemporary drawings](#) for the Kupferstichkabinett in Berlin.

Following an artistic principle she last applied to *Study for Strings*, a work presented at the dOCUMENTA (13) in Kassel, each tone of the compositions was recorded separately in the studio. In the installation, the tones are distributed among the 24 loudspeakers installed along the entire length of the historic grand industrial hall. With this sound work and its accompanying twelve prints, in which pages of Eisler's scores are superimposed with pages from his FBI files, Philipsz seeks an approach to Eisler's aesthetic of the *displaced form* so as to evoke themes such as life's journey and the experience of separation and displacement.

**Hanns Eisler**, who emigrated to the United States in the 1930s and reluctantly had to leave the country again in 1948 because of his pro-Communist convictions, wrote twelve-tone-music, but was also interested in 'popular' genres such as stage and film music. He composed numerous songs, including songs for workers' choirs and international labor movement rallies, and, in 1949, the national anthem of the GDR.

Dealing with musical and literary models and specific historical constellations, **Susan Philipsz** (b. 1965 in Glasgow), winner of the prestigious Turner Prize in 2010, works primarily with the medium of sound. Based in Berlin since 2001, the artist frequently uses well-known songs and pop songs that she performs and records in her own voice to create an acoustic environment in dialogue with the specific exhibition site or urban space. More recently, she has increasingly worked with instrumental compositions and acoustic material such as field recordings or radio signals, redacting and staging them for a specific location following intensive research.

Invalidenstr. 50-51  
10557 Berlin

The exhibition by Susan Philipsz is the current project in the series *Works of Music by Visual Artists*, which Freunde Guter Musik Berlin has presented in collaboration with the Nationalgalerie since 1999 and, since 2002, with MaerzMusik, the contemporary music festival of the Berliner Festspiele.  
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Curators: Ingrid Buschmann / Freunde Guter Musik Berlin e.V.  
Gabriele Knapstein / Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart – Berlin  
Further Information: <http://www.musikwerke-bildender-kuenstler.de/>

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#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE EXHIBITION, PLEASE CONTACT**

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For downloadable press photos, please visit: [http://www.freunde-guter-musik-berlin.de/?page\\_id=13](http://www.freunde-guter-musik-berlin.de/?page_id=13)