

PRESS INFORMATION, SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

Cecilia Jonsson: Contemporary Diagram – Berlin

A Residency and Exhibition Project of singuhr — projekte and Schering Stiftung ■ Unter den Linden 32–34 ■ 10117 Berlin

Exhibition Opening: September 28, 2018, 6–9 p.m.

Duration: September 29–November 26, 2018

Opening Hours: Thursday–Monday: 1–7 p.m. Free admission.



Can frequencies and melodies influence the growth and formations of bacteria in the sewage? This question is explored by the Swedish artist Cecilia Jonsson in her project “Contemporary Diagram – Berlin,” initiated and organized by singuhr – projekte. During a project residency at the sewage research facility of the Berliner Wasserbetriebe in Berlin-Neukölln, she used eight experimental set-ups to study how bacteria respond to different sounds and music. The results of these experiments will be presented at the Schering Stiftung.

For Jonsson’s experiments, the sewage offers ideal conditions, since it is populated by bacteria that can be cultured on iron plates and trigger corrosion processes. Using standard aquariums, the artist built eight experimental stations, exposing the bacteria in the sewage to infra- and ultrasound, different audible frequencies, her voice singing a note, and music by the Russian composer Alexander Mosolov (1900–1973).

The exhibition presents Cecilia Jonsson’s results as well as contextual information about her research, adding written notes, observations, and thoughts to her research findings. The exhibition room thus evolves into a sensory research space interlacing hearing and seeing, contemplation and reflection, and making visible invisible phenomena such as bacteria while at the same time providing insights into invisible architectures such as the city’s underground sewage system.

Through her artistic research, Cecilia Jonsson triggers complex transformation processes. “Contemporary Diagram – Berlin” was inspired by the late-nineteenth-century hydrodynamic experiments of the Norwegian physicist Carl Anton Bjerknes who studied the mechanical behavior of fluids. Bjerknes’ working method was a reference point for Jonsson’s artistic research in many respects, as can be seen by the artist’s research notes, which comment on the peculiar way in which the physicist reflected on and documented his experiments.

Cecilia Jonsson, born 1980 in Sweden, lives and works in Bergen (Norway). She studied art at the Bergen Academy of Art and Design and was a participant in the Nordic Sound Art Programme in 2010–2012. As part of the “Art and Synthetic Biology” project of the Finnish Bioart Society, she gathered experience in the field of transdisciplinary research and gained

insight into the research field of synthetic biology. Cecilia Jonsson's artistic work has received several awards and has been shown in places such as the Science Gallery Dublin; STUK, Leuven; the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts in Taichung; and MU in Eindhoven, Netherlands.

Related Events at the Schering Stiftung:

September 18, 2018, 4–7 p.m.: Open Studio with Cecilia Jonsson

November 7, 2018, 6 p.m.: Prof. Kirsten Küsel (Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena)
“Geomicrobiology: The art to shape the Earth”
Lecture (in English), organized as part of the Berlin Science Week 2018.

Registration for the lecture is required at:
www.scheringstiftung.de/lecture-microbio

More information can be found on the following websites:

www.ceciliajonsson.com

www.singuhr.de

www.scheringstiftung.de

Organized by singuhr e.V. (www.singuhr.de) in cooperation with the Schering Stiftung. Cecilia Jonsson's artist residency was supported by the City of Bergen and the AiR Bergen-Berlin program and made possible by the Berliner Wasserbetriebe. The Schering Stiftung is a partner of both the Berlin Art Week 2018 and the Berlin Science Week 2018.



Photo: Cecilia Jonsson: *Contemporary Diagram* – Berlin, 2018

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