

Annika Kahrs: Gravity's Tune

Duration: September 14–November 26, 2023

Exhibition Opening: September 13, 2023, 6–10 p.m.

Schering Stiftung ■ Unter den Linden 32–34 ■ 10117 Berlin

Opening Hours: Thursday and Friday, 1–7 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Free admission

In her upcoming solo exhibition at the Schering Stiftung, the artist Annika Kahrs presents a new video work providing a musical interpretation, in collaboration with composer Louis d'Heudières and musicians from Los Angeles, of the acoustic signal of gravitational waves.

The starting-point and basis for the work is the famous “chirp sound”, which was recorded at the US-based LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory). Conceived theoretically by Albert Einstein, gravitational waves were empirically observed for the first time at LIGO in February 2016. Created in the tissue of space-time, gravitational waves are a propagating phenomenon caused by, amongst others, the collision of black holes traveling at the speed of light.

In the new film *Gravity's Tune*, Kahrs approaches these extraterrestrial waves via the medium of music. Her work opens an entryway into otherwise inaudible (sound-)worlds to raise fundamental questions about how astrophysics can stimulate our imagination and provide insight into events that are difficult, if not impossible, to imagine. For Kahrs, artistically translating and working with sound to sensitize the audience to the poetical and aesthetic dimension of scientific events serves as a communication vehicle for new forms of interaction, and, in this case, as gateways to distant galaxies.

Central to Kahrs' artistic-musical exploration was the scientific consultancy of Dr. Keith Thorne, physicist at LIGO – a landmark, described by Thorne as the quietest concert hall on Earth. It was conceived and built to detect astrophysical phenomena which are transformed into sound after a wealth of terrestrial background noise has been filtered out with maximum precision.

In her films, installations, and performances, Annika Kahrs deals with sounds in the broadest sense of the word. She is interested in sounds with special properties, including those in the infrasonic range, but also in sounds that, thanks to their physical properties, are able to express a phenomenon. For the work at hand, Kahrs sensitizes the viewers to the fact that it is precisely such “unusual” sounds, i.e. gravitational waves, that can challenge our understanding of hearing, sound, and not least music.



The video work presented in the exhibition was created as part of the artist's 2021 Villa Aurora Fellowship in Los Angeles and is made possible with support from MOIN Filmförderung Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein and the Schering Stiftung.

The opening will be held on September 13, 2023, starting at 6 p.m. with a reception in the Schering Stiftung's courtyard.

Annika Kahrs lives and works in Hamburg and Berlin. She has been awarded a number of prizes and scholarships including Villa Aurora, L.A., USA; VILA SUL, Brazil; Max-Pechstein-Förderpreis; Stiftung Kunstfonds; and the George-Maciunas-Förderpreis donated by René Block. Kahrs has exhibited both nationally and internationally, including at the 16th Lyon Biennale, at Hamburger Bahnhof – Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart, Berlin; at the 5th Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art; at Kunsthalle Bremerhaven; at Savvy Contemporary, Berlin; at the the Bienal Internacional de Curitiba, Brazil; at Hamburger Kunsthalle; at the Hybrid Art Festival in Moscow; at KW Institute for Contemporary Art in Berlin; at Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Bonn; at Gropius Bau, Berlin; at Goldsmiths University of London; at Flat Time House, London, and at the Velada de Santa Lucia festival in Maracaibo, Venezuela.

The **Schering Stiftung** was established in 2002 and aims to promote science and art with a focus on the life sciences and the contemporary arts. A particular focus is on projects in frontier areas, especially at the intersection of science and art. In addition to its operational activities, the Schering Stiftung also promotes scientific and cultural education projects for children and young people.

For more information, please visit:

www.scheringstiftung.de



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