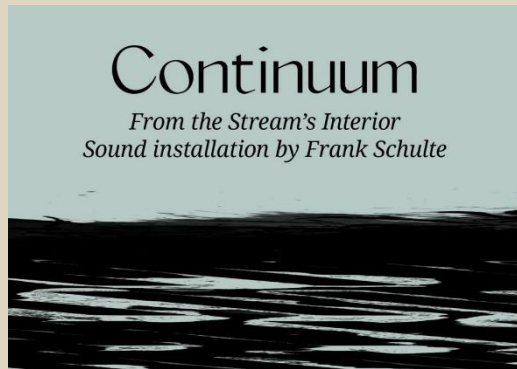


Monheim Triennale

Monheim Triennale presents:



06.05.2021

The Monheim Triennale is planning to present the audio-visual sound installation 'continuum' by media artist Frank Schulte at the Evangelische Altstadtkirche (Protestant Old Town Church) in Monheim am Rhein.

What does it sound like underwater in the Rhine river? With his sound installation 'continuum' Frank Schulte will explore the underwater acoustics of the Rhine river' flow, noises made by river dwellers and sounds produced by passing ships along the Monheim waterfront and make them tangible as a multi-

channel audio-visual production in the Evangelische Altstadtkirche in Monheim am Rhein.

All lifeforms emerge from the water. At the same time, water has always posed a real threat to the people living along the river. Both aspects were addressed during the construction of Monheim's Altstadtkirche (1848-58). At its portal there is a handrail that captures the rippling quality of water, and above the door to the sacred space a stained-glass picture depicts a scene from the biblical story of Noah (Genesis 7ff). The flood covers the land, the dove with an olive branch in its beak ascends in front of a rainbow as a sign of the new covenant between God and mankind.

Sound travels relatively fast underwater and carries information over greater spatial distances than, for example, light. Therefore, animals living in water have a vast range of receptors to perceive sounds. This sensitive field of perception is severely disturbed by increasing emissions caused by human shipping traffic. This, too, is evident in the sound installation. Similarly, the artist uses a light reflection of Rhine water to address the increase of microplastics from industrial wastewater, which were only recently found in large numbers on the riverbanks of the Rhine near Monheim.

For 'continuum', Frank Schulte has placed a multitude of special microphones spanning approx. 200 metres into the river. From here, the signals are transmitted to the church and played back during a multi-channel sound installation. Simultaneously, the real view of the river under and above water is shown as a video projection. This creates a virtual space within the church with subcutaneous sounds from under the water's surface which are normally inaudible to us humans. A meditation on the eternal flow with its coming and going.



Frank Schulte installing the sound installation,
Photo: Monheim Triennale

The opening was planned for Whitsun Saturday, 22 May but has had to be postponed due to the ongoing pandemic. Artistic director Reiner Michalke: "Being able to immerse yourself in the Rhine in this way is a truly physical experience. That's why it doesn't make sense to stream this event online. As soon as it is possible to make the exhibition accessible to the public, we will announce the dates. "

The exhibition will be open twice a week after the opening for a maximum visit of 30 minutes. During our special event "The Prequel" (01 to 04 July 2021) we will open the exhibition daily from 4 pm to 8 pm.

For further information and visual material on 'continuum', please visit www.monheim-triennale.de/en/continuum.