

HOŠEK CONTEMPORARY

— EST. 2016 —

MARTIN JANÍČEK - SOUND OF RAIN

Opening reception: 25th March 2025, 7 - 10 pm

Exhibition period: 25th March - 4th April 2025

With this project I would like to focus on a basic element - water.

It is a crucial, life-enhancing element and as we all know, it is endangered. The current situation is disheartening and difficult, however, many seem to not care.

When I was thinking about a site-specific project for the Berlin-based barge Heimatland, my attention got drawn and concentrated on water. Water, which gives life to all the vegetation, and of course animals and people too. Regular rainwater quantities have become irregular and unpredictable, thus influencing the underground water levels, river drainage, floods as well as everyday life in the countryside and the cities.

I would like to share my concern about the situation with the visitors, by proposing Sound of Rain, an interactive installation. The main goal of the project is to create a sound installation relating to the local frequency of rainfall. During a period between July and December 2024, data of the rainwater amount was collected in collaboration with the Czech and German hydrometeorological institutes. Then, from January to March 2025, I was transforming the data into pipes of a particular length.

The monitoring took place each week, meaning that there will be 28 weeks and 28 pipes. These pipes will be hanging in the exhibition space of Hošek Contemporary on a system of stretched metal wires, creating a unique musical instrument. This instrument will be used and activated by the visitors, who will be able to play music with soft mallets depending on the level of rainwater, while becoming conscious of the effects of climate change on the immediate environment. Another sound element will accompany the piece; I will use hydrophones, directly from the Spree, to achieve an authentic acoustic environment and a specific context for my concerts and workshops.

Text © Martin Janíček

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Hošek Contemporary

Established by Petr Hošek in 2016, Hošek Contemporary is a gallery and art residency located on a historical cargo ship anchored near Märkisches Ufer in Mitte, Berlin. The gallery focuses primarily on site-specific pieces, performing arts and experimental sound works co-curated by Linda Toivio. During the spring and summer months, the gallery is hosting weekly improvised and experimental music installations, with local and international musicians.

MS Heimatland

Built in 1910 in Fürstenberg an der Oder, MS Heimatland was initially operating under the name Ida and used for transporting coal to Charlottenburg. After the Second World War, the 58-meter long cargo ship was renamed Heimatland, meaning "homeland". Until the 90s, the ship was sailing on Elbe and Havel, moving other boats, sand and chipping. It served for artistic and cultural purposes for the first time in 2002, when German sculptor Christiane Möbus chose it for her Nackte Tatsache Tatsache project. Finally, in March 2018, Heimatland became the main exhibition space and artist residency of Hošek Contemporary. The boat is permanently anchored in the historical harbour of Berlin.

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