



RAUM MG 16

Meister-Gerhard-Straße 16
50674 Cologne / Germany

November 3. - 18. 2023

Opening Reception with Performance > November 3. 2023 / 7 pm

Curated by Markus Kersting

Liora Epstein / Nils-Simon Fischer / Thomas Huy / Dennis Kauzner / Helena Münch / Eduardo Martin Del Pozo / Stefan Seelge / Lucia Tello / Paul Weiner

The relationship between music and visual art has always inspired artists. Music plays a significant role in contemporary visual art as a source of inspiration, form of expression, and creative impulse. Visual artists have historically used music to integrate feelings and ideas into their art, creating multilayered sensory experiences for their viewers. Music is a universal language capable of directly conveying emotions and moods that enhance visual artworks. At the beginning of the 20th century, artists such as Kandinsky and Malevich were already convinced that colors and shapes could take on similar emotional and spiritual qualities to music, creating harmony and dissonance in visual form. *ON MUSIC* brings these elements together in an exhibition featuring a variety of international artistic perspectives. These perspectives offer an overview of the application of music in contemporary art.

Madrid-based painter **Eduardo Martin Del Pozo** is known in Spain for his abstract paintings that explore the relationship between music and painting. Del Pozo uses musical concepts of repetition, variation, transformation, and development inspired by Bach, Beethoven, Schubert, and Morton Feldman as a starting point for his artwork. As in music, the fundamental elements of Del Pozo's paintings are space, time, and gesture. His paintings in *ON MUSIC* are scenographic and architectural, considering the exhibition space at MG16 as a stage for the performances by Thomas Huy as can be seen in the example below.

Paul Weiner is an American artist from Denver who is known for his abstract and conceptual artworks, which were recently displayed at the Museo de Arte Moderno in Mexico City. Music is Weiner's companion in the studio, a material as integral to his art as the charcoal he paints with. Weiner's studio playlist ranges from classical to punk rock and evokes feelings of nostalgia, paranoia, frustration, calm, and anxiety that pervade his abstractions as the sound is translated into painterly forms and AI-generated images.

The young Spanish artist **Lucia Tello** who lives in Paris is still largely unknown in Germany. She uses music as the starting point for her new series of paintings in *ON MUSIC*. Her sketches and paintings are poetic and resemble fairytale painterly soundscapes. Her light, painterly textures offer room for the viewer to draw playful associations.

Thomas Huy is a classically trained bass-baritone and performer from Neuss who has performed at Kunstpalast and Kunsthalle Düsseldorf. Huy occupies a unique position in the show, dealing with sound as he combines different elements from classical and electronic music. His performance of visual and auditory elements creates an immersive experience for the listener. Huy's performance of electronic sound and vocal improvisation is a collaboration with Dorian Eikenberg and can be heard for the first time in *ON MUSIC*.

Cologne-based painter **Helena Münch** creates flowing abstractions that evoke pictorial worlds based on the use of stain, acrylic, and ink. In her paintings, Münch associates sounds with emotional contexts, which creates a deep level of synesthetic meaning that, apart from the emotional force of her colors, leads to a sublime feeling of visual pleasure.

Dennis Kauzner's paintings on canvas and recent multi-layered wall objects are inspired by classical music and nature sounds. Kauzner relies on the inconspicuous structure of this artform to evoke new sensory experiences. For the exhibition, Kauzner also uses surprising acoustic accents in his work.

This year's graduate of the Düsseldorf Art Academy and trained fashion designer **Liora Epstein** is inspired by baroque and dark disco music for the works created especially for this exhibition. In her textile works, Epstein explores the interactions between sound, image, and object. The result is a sensitive balancing act between the delicate materials she uses and the power of her artistic expression.

Nils-Simon Fischer from Düsseldorf draws similarly delicate lines between music and visual art. In his new paintings, he is inspired by what he hears, whether music or seemingly banal everyday noises. Fischer translates tones and sounds into specially mixed colors. His works thus become a symbolic synthesis of music and visual art.

Stefan Seelge from Cologne experiments with audio-visual patterns in his sculptural objects, which make space tangible in its full dimensions and challenge the viewer's senses. Seelge takes referential sound elements from pop culture and cleverly mixes them with visual elements borrowed from series such as *Stranger Things*, *Playmobil*, and video games.

The relationship between music and visual art is diverse and rich, and the perspectives represented in this exhibition are an excerpt of a broader experience that pervades visual art. These artists demonstrate how music is used as both an inspiration and medium in contemporary visual art. The exhibited works are an expression of the deep connection between the two art forms and offer viewers a fascinating visual experience.