

## **SONIC CITY**

- an innovative exhibition platform for sound art in urban space



Wilhelm Klotzek: Die Peripherie singt

Audio piece, ca. 10min, U - Bhf. Senefelder Platz

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**Artistic director:** Mischa Leinkauf

**Participating artists:** Wilhelm Klotzek, Sandra Man, Nik Nowak, Ed Davenport

**Project management:** Daniela von Damaros

### **Venues & Timetable:**

U - Bahnhof Senefelder Platz U2: Wilhelm Klotzek „Die Peripherie singt“,

Mo-Do 4:10am & 21:50pm, Fr 4:10am, Sunday's 3:20am & 9:50am

Park am Marx-Engels-Forum: Sandra Man „Public Elsewhere 06 Die Straße“

Mo-So 7:00am & 7:30pm

Volkspark Humboldthain: Ed Davenport „under construction“

Part 1 Mo-Fr 5:17pm, Sa-So 5:17pm & 11:11am, Part 2 daily 7:30am & 22:00pm

Am Postbahnhof: Nik Nowak „Rabbit Hole“ daily 12pm & 5pm & 10pm

**Duration:** August 23 – September 19, 2021

**SONIC CITY** is an exhibition project for sound art in urban space initiated by the artist Mischa Leinkauf and realized with the art historian and curator Daniela von Damaros. As an innovative format funded by the BBK within the framework of NEUSTART KULTUR, *SONIC CITY* is designed as a modular and expandable platform.

For the first presentation in August 2021, Berlin-based artists Ed Davenport, Wilhelm Klotzek, Sandra Man, and Nik Nowak are each invited to develop a cross-genre, experimental, and site-specific sound work. They explore the question: What hidden and invisible layers of urban space exist parallel to our everyday paths through the metropolis and how can they be made artistically useful?

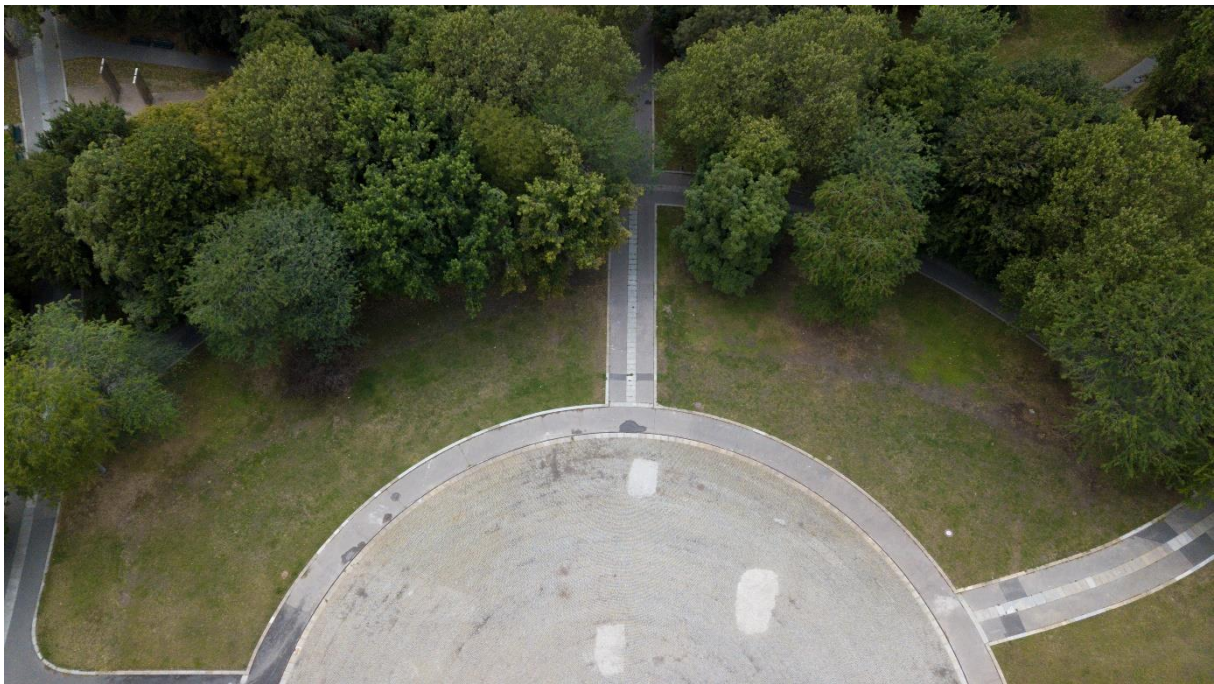
With the installation of their sound works at four selected locations in the middle of Berlin, the artists mark interfaces of the urban space to architectures that often go unnoticed or undiscovered by the city's inhabitants in everyday life. The sound works reveal themselves to an audience in a similarly mysterious way: From inaccessible "holes" in the city, their sounds penetrate to the outside, allowing a complex network of subterranean structures or activities to be imagined. For this purpose, self-sufficient loudspeaker units were developed, which are installed invisibly for the listener at the selected locations.



Ed Davenport: Under Construction, 2021  
Sound Installation in two parts, Volkspark Humboldthain near swimming pool  
© Mischa Leinkauf for SONIC CITY

Thus all works are purely acoustically perceptible and present themselves as ephemeral interventions. A precise temporal and local announcement is denied them. Some of the sound works penetrate the atmosphere of the place as something new and partly disturbing. They surprise the audience and tear them out of their everyday perception of the city. Other sound installations are barely perceptible as interventions, nor recognizable as art. They challenge citizens to consciously perceive their surroundings and blend their own senses. The audience hears what it does not see.

The audio piece "Die Peripherie singt" (The Periphery Sings) by the artist **Wilhelm Klotzek** uses the quietness of the train intervals at the U2 - Bahnhof Senefelder Platz to bring citizens into contact with the soundscapes of the city's periphery. For this purpose, a complex sound system was installed that distributes acoustic signals over the entire station twice a day, in the morning and evening hours. The artist, author and choreographer **Sandra Man's** work "Public Elsewhere 06 | The Street" uses the lyrical sounds of a voice - performed by Joséphine Evrard - to expand a wasteland in the park of the Marx-Engels-Forum not far from the new Berlin Palace into a physical space. Her work will be heard six times at different times of the day.



Sandra Man: Public Elsewhere 06 | Die Straße

Audio Installation, 2021

Performed by Joséphine Evrard

Voice recording Retox Studio / Fernand Kelzer

8:00 min, Language: german

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**Nik Nowak**, who as an artist deals with the phenomenon of sound as a weapon and most recently occupied the KINDL - Center for Contemporary Art's Kesselhaus with his massive sound installation, critically examines the current political issue of generating truths and the role of the Internet as a medium that shapes world views in his work "Rabbit Hole". As an analogy for this, he uses the conspicuous steel pink sewage pipes that crisscross Berlin's street network above ground in reference to Terry Gilliam's film "Brazil" (1985) and lets anonymous voices seep out of their open ends.



Nik Nowak: Rabbit Hole, 2021, Sound Installation,

Am Postbahnhof

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Techno DJ and producer **Ed Davenport**, who has not been able to play at Berghain for almost two years, uses his electronic sounds to develop an acoustic narrative that follows the historical traces of Berlin's Humboldthain, with the old Flak bunker, its battles and failed demolition, to the bunker raves of the 90s.

Site-specifically elaborated, all sound works apply to the square and the situation of their public location, with its elements, such as buildings, traffic arteries or urban destination. They react to their historical and social context, and to their atmosphere. It is these ephemeral interventions in the ordering system of the city and the empowerment of a presentation space in everyday life with which the artists provoke situations that allow questions to be asked rather than answers to be given and thus enable reinterpretations of public space.

In the solidification of things, *SONIC CITY* stands for openings: In urban architectures, in the structures of the art business, and as loopholes for imagination. The project allows access to a boundless expanse of the city. It not only allows the city's system of order to be reflected upon, but also brings art and music out of the exhibition spaces and clubs into the public sphere, thus promoting both an individual and a collective experience of art without institutional thresholds.

### **About the participating artists:**

#### **Mischa Leinkauf**

<https://alexanderlevy.de/artist/mischa-leinkauf>

#### **Sandra Man**

<https://www.moritzmajcesandraman.com/about/sm.html>

#### **Wilhelm Klotzek**

<http://www.wilhelmklotzek.de/>

#### **Nik Nowak**

<https://niknowak.de/>

#### **Ed Davenport**

Musician, DJ and label founder "Counterchange". Born in UK, lives and works in Berlin.

Studied at the London College of Communication and The Arts Institute of Bournemouth. Many collaborations with visual artists such as Julian Charriere, Ekaterina Burlyga and

Mischa Leinkauf for expansive video and sound installations.