

SOUND AND SILENCE

The Sound of Silence in Contemporary Art

June 18 – November 1, 2020

The exhibition *Sound and Silence* focuses on how contemporary art renders stillness and silence visible and audible. It gives special consideration to the paradoxically dialectical dimension inherent to the sphere of silence and stillness, which itself can only be perceived in relation to the sphere of sound. Hence the exhibition seeks out on highly diverse levels lines of separation and connection between the not yet or the no longer audible. It shows which images and sounds contemporary art finds for stillness, the pause and silence; how it explains a stillness which is not merely the absence of noises; how it opens to sensory perception which cannot be experienced, the nothingness of utter stillness as well as the exaggeration of the audible in noise, or paraphrases it through intimation. It asks what function and what value sound and silence and their interrelationship can have as media and themes of art. It wonders whether there is any quiet in the world at all, asks with regard to this only relative stillness what sound it possesses such that art is able to acquire a different and special access to the world.

The presentation is being realized in view of the celebrations that will be taking place throughout 2020 on the occasion of the 250th birthday of Ludwig van Beethoven; it thereby keeps in mind a biography within which are exemplarily inscribed the paths from sound to stillness and back again, along with a resistance to the world's falling silent that is conceived as an existential task. In a broad panorama of media consisting of installations, performances, videos, films, photographs and drawings, the sound of silence becomes perceptible in many different ways: as monotony, repetition and repository; as pause or overlapping and cluster, as booming stillness or ruined sound; in the interplay between meditative immersion, compelled silence and quiet resistance, as ambivalent expression of emptiness and fullness, of fear and hope, of meaning and meaninglessness.

As an interdisciplinary project including works by international artists, the exhibition conveys innovative and scientifically enduring perspectives onto that complex relationship between sound and silence which is investigated not only by art and music, but also by literature and philosophy.

List of Artists (selection):

Jennifer Allora & Guillermo Calzadilla, William Anastasi, John Baldessari, Joseph Beuys, Tatiana Blass, Maya Bringolf, Christoph Büchel, Julia Bünnagel, John Cage, Janet Cardiff and George Bures Miller, Ceal Floyer, Sofia Hultén, Christina Kubisch, Christian Marclay, Kris Martin, Jonathan Monk, Dennis Oppenheim, Jorinde Voigt, Samson Young, David Zink Yi

Kuratoren der Ausstellung: Dr. Volker Adolphs, Prof. Dr. Stephan Berg

Pressekontakt: Kristina Thrien, T 0228- 776209, kristina.thrien@bonn.de