

PRESS RELEASE

Jan St. Werner ***Space Synthesis***

May 05 – July 02, 2023

Exhibition at Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden

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March 30, 2023

Jan St. Werner

Space Synthesis

May 05 – July 02, 2023

Exhibition at Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden

Press conference

Friday, May 05, 2023, 11 am

Registration to Lutz Breitingner, presse@kunsthalle-baden-baden.de is requested.

Opening


Friday, May 05, 2023, from 6 pm

About the exhibition

On May 5, *Space Synthesis*, the first solo exhibition by artist and composer Jan St. Werner, opens at Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden. With *Space Synthesis*, St. Werner, best known as a member of the duo Mouse on Mars, transforms the Kunsthalle into a sound space, a large instrument. The exhibition embarks on a dynamic investigation of human thought about sound by assuming that each of us perceives sounds differently. Between different sound sources and sound-reflecting surfaces, a stage – continuously changing in size and shape – is created. Sounds, shadows, walls, performers, and listeners become part of a moving, multi-perspective scenario.

Sound is usually understood as a medium of representation, a portrayal or interpretation of a source. In *Space Synthesis*, however, sound is a method of exploration and the Kunsthalle its subject. Supported by light, movements, distractions, and interventions, a parkour through the exhibition is created in which each room represents a separate section of a composition that is altered by the movements of each individual visitor.

Space Synthesis conceives of space not as a static object, but as a multiplicity of perspectives that are intertwined and react to each other. The careful use of light creates an immaterial architecture that intervenes in the space, but can also dynamically change itself. Thus, the space is constantly in motion, in dialogue with the visitors. By intervening in the structural design of the Kunsthalle, resonances are



created that make the building speak. Sounds blend and combine, each frequency in the space creates new frequencies, each echo generates new echoes depending on where in the space the listener is located. Architectural elements are positioned at certain points that have a diffusing effect and divide the space in an invisible but audible way.

Dialogue and exchange play a central role in Werner's investigation of the relationship between sound and space. Only they make it possible to rethink space, sound, senses, and not least ourselves. *Space Synthesis* is thus also a practice that opposes the notion of history as fixed knowledge, often manifested in monuments and rigid structures. This practice counters singular monumental thinking and static histories with multiple perspectives and a dynamic interdependence of the senses.

For Jan St. Werner, this approach is a logical continuation of his many years of work as a musician and composer. His first solo exhibition is not designed as a retrospective, but was conceived specifically for the spaces of the Kunsthalle. Curator Çağla İlk is thus continuing a curatorial concept that she established when she took over the Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden in 2020 together with Misal Adnan Yıldız. Instead of merely exhibiting art, the Kunsthalle becomes a vivid oeuvre in itself in which art and architecture coalesce in a transdisciplinary manner. İlk thus resumes a long tradition of the Kunsthalle Baden-Baden, which recurrently dismissed familiar exhibition concepts in favor of an examination of the building, for example in exhibitions by artists such as Donald Judd and Dan Flavin in the late 1980s.

Space Synthesis is part of Jan St. Werner's two-year association with Kunsthalle Baden-Baden as house artist. With this position, the Kunsthalle is establishing an instrument from the theater in an art institution to ensure a sustainable production basis. In the form of a two-year tenure, the Kunsthalle Baden-Baden offers four artists the opportunity for artistic research, engagement, and production in a long-term relationship with the city through public space.

On three weekends in May and June, the exhibition will be enhanced by an extensive para-curatorial program with performances and lectures by many artists and theorists.

The exhibition will be accompanied by an LP and a catalogue.

The digital dimension of the exhibition was developed by Damir Gamulin and Nikola Bojić in collaboration with Ana Škegro from the Museum of Contemporary Art in Zagreb.

Curator: Çağla İlk
Curatorial Assistance: Sandeep Sodhi
Digital Curator: Dominik Busch

About Jan St. Werner

Jan St. Werner is a Berlin-based electronic music artist and composer. Widely known as one half of the electronic music group Mouse on Mars, Werner always seeks a dialogue with the visual arts in his sound works. Understanding, as he himself puts it, “*sound as something that is constantly in motion and cannot be grasped from a fixed perspective,*” Werner defies traditional tuning systems and instead centers his works on bringing together variable elements. Werner has realized sound interventions and exhibitions in art spaces such as the ICA London, documenta 14 in Athens and Kassel, the Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, and Haus der Kulturen der Welt in Berlin. In 2021 and 2022, his spatial sound exhibitions were presented at the Kunstbau Lenbachhaus, during the CTM Festival in Berlin and at the Germanisches Nationalmuseum Nuremberg, as well as at the 6th Ural Biennial. The project *Sometimes You Just Have to Give It Your Attention*, initiated by him and Michael Akstaller, deals with the history and present of the Nazi party rally grounds in Nuremberg. From 2017 to 2021, Werner was Professor of Interactive Media/Dynamic Acoustic Research at the Nuremberg Academy of Fine Arts, the first class of its kind at a German art academy. Previously, he taught at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.) in Boston and at the New York University Tisch School of the Arts in Berlin. In 2020/21, he was also a visiting professor of sound and performance at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich.

Para-curatorial Program

Weekend Program I (Opening Weekend)

May 5-7, 2023

Friday, May 5

from 6 pm Opening
10 pm DJ Set Andi Thoma
11 pm Nina Emge

Saturday, May 6

On the Shadows of Ideas

*minds that cast shadows meets the pulsar synthesis meets unfolding space
meets new acoustics*

2 pm Patricia Reed, Marcin Pietruszewski, Nina Emge, Gascia
Ouzounian, Michael Akstaller

5 pm Artist Talk with Jan St. Werner & Çağla İlk

Performance: Marcin Pietruszewski

Sunday, May 7

2 pm Curator's walk and talk

3 pm Launch LP *Space Synthesis* with performance

Weekend Program II

May 20-21, 2023

Spaint Chords in Public Spaces with Jan St. Werner

Weekend Program III

June 17-18, 2023

Saturday, June 17

Lecture Performance: Louis Chude-Sokei: *Thresholds*

Performance: Dodo NKishi & Tunde Alibaba: *Percuspection*

DJ Set: Louis Chude-Sokei

Sunday, June 18

Performance: Dodo NKishi & Tunde Alibaba: *Percuspection*

Weekend Program IV (Closing Weekend)

July 1-2, 2023

Saturday, July 1

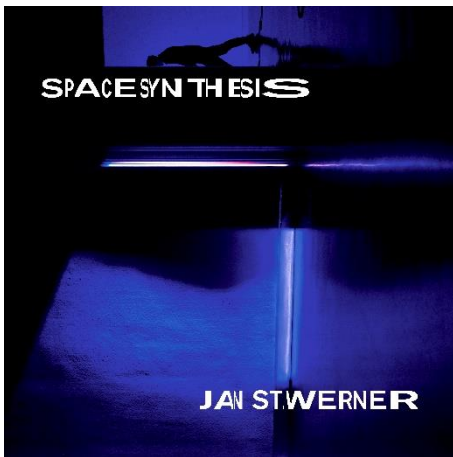
Nicole L'Huillier: *more-than-human performativity, vibrational spaces
membranes*

Party with Nicole & Juan and Jan St. Werner

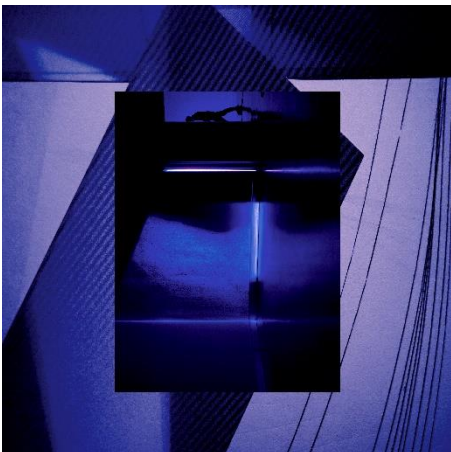
Press images

We can provide you with the following pictures in print quality for press purposes. Please contact us directly to request them: presse@kunsthalle-baden-baden.de

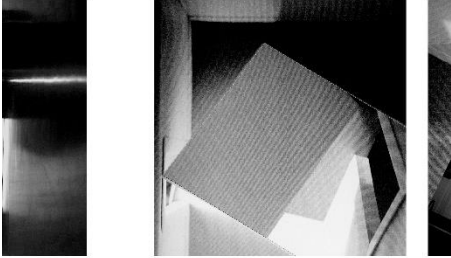
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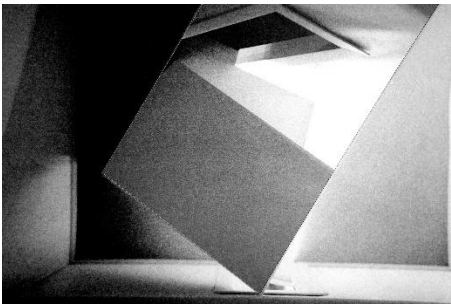
Jan St. Werner, Space Synthesis, 2023 © Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden



Jan St. Werner, Space Synthesis, 2023 © Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden



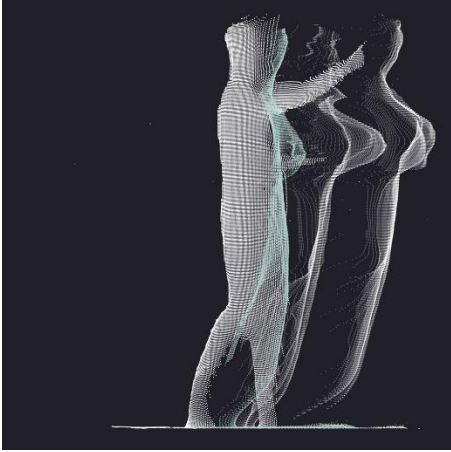
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Jan St. Werner, Space Synthesis, 2023 © Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden, Damir Gamulin

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Information

Title and running time are subject to change. You can download our press kit and image materials at www.kunsthalle-baden-baden.de/presse.

Detailed information on the program of the Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden can be found on the [Website](#).

Opening hours

Tuesday – Sunday, 10 am – 6 pm

Open on all holidays except December 24 and 31.

Prices

7€, reduced 5€, Friday free entry

Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden

Lichtentaler Allee 8a

76530 Baden-Baden

www.kunsthalle-baden-baden.de

The Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden is an institution of the State of Baden-Württemberg under the auspices of the Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts of Baden-Württemberg.

STAATLICHE KUNSTHALLE
BADEN —
BADEN



Baden-Württemberg

MINISTERIUM FÜR WISSENSCHAFT, FORSCHUNG UND KUNST

March 30, 2023