

Press release
Status: October 2006

Project Limina

Interdisciplinary music project, 16th March – 18th March 2007 in the Festspielhaus Hellerau, Dresden

The project Limina deals with the problem of indifference on an artistic and theoretic level. Arbitrariness and exchangeability affect our cultural daily life. It seems to become increasingly difficult to create a new difference of values.

Limina is a walk-in concert by the composer Patrick Frank. It takes place simultaneously in different rooms. One cycle is repeated several times, thus resulting in a total running time of 4 hours. The centre consists of a black box measuring 7 meters x 7 meters; it is built in the hall. Half of its walls are illuminated; its brightness changing gradually. At the entrance, the viewers will receive a cushion so that they can freely choose and change their position, their listening and watching perspectives. The musicians, too, play from different positions and perspectives. Nevertheless, the audience will get a complete acoustic picture as the walls of the different rooms don't absorb the sound. Except for the viewers sitting on their cushions and some musicians, the rooms and aisles are empty. Even though it is a concert, it works like a museum. The pictures of the `exhibition` are determined by the audience: they could be the minimalist light installations, the musicians, or even the viewers themselves, sitting face-to-face in the black box.

In addition to the concert installation, lectures, followed by discussions, will be given. Furthermore, a dance performance by Alexandra Bachtsetis, which will be choreographed according to the topic of the project, will premiere. The dance performance is not directly linked to the concert installation, but will rather stand in contrast to it and be an independent artistic piece of work.

The topic of the project will not be translated in a complex, technical process of composing, but will rather shape the immediate outer form of the concert installation. What does that mean?

One of the most important preconditions of a globalised, pluralistic society is the preservation and distribution of freedom. The viewer will be able to *experience* freedom in the project: not only physically, while visiting the concert by choosing the location, the music, the time; but also psychologically, by having complete freedom of interpretation. The viewer decides whom he will listen to, where he will sit etc. The freedom of choice, meaning when, where and for how long the viewer stays, gets radicalised by the freedom of thought. There will be no (work) commentaries, no instructions, no introductions etc, so that the freedom of association can be assured.

Society's changes in values led to a disbelief in the future and to an emphasis on *repetition*. This led to the idea of building cycles in which the same things happen, but are perceived differently, because the place and the way of watching and listening won't be the same. The background of the project is deliberately put into an independent form: the subject of the symposium, but not the concert installation itself, shall enable other point of views to illuminate our artistic present.

Personalities from various artistic and theoretic fields have been invited to participate in the discussion: Peter Gross, sociologist and author, Harry Lehmann, philosopher, Stefan Bachmann, director, Isabel Mundry, composer and Patrick Frank, composer. The discussions will be led by Daniel Fueter, director of the Music Conservatory Zurich, Switzerland. A book with articles by the participants will be published.

In Dresden, the project Limina will be organised under the project management of Patrick Frank and in co-operation with the European Centre for the Arts Hellerau in the recently re-opened Festspielhaus Hellerau.

The project Limina is sponsored by the German Federal Cultural Foundation, Pro Helvetia and the IGNM Basle.

For further information:

Project Limina: www.traute.ch

European Centre for the Arts Hellerau: www.kunstforumhellerau.de