

Christoph Korn

Paroikein

Stone, loudspeakers, water basin, sand, sound

“*Paroikia* and *parousia*, the sojourn of the stranger and the presence of the messiah have the same structure, expressed in Greek through the preposition *pará*: a presence that stretches time, an already that is also a not yet, a delay that is not a shift to later, a break in the present, which allows us to understand time.” (from Giorgio Agamben, *The Church and the Kingdom*)

The installation *Paroikein* by Christoph Korn is a site-specific work. In the classicist pavilion it looks sacral and the reduced arrangement raises many questions. Already charged with many associations, objects such as stone, sand or pools of water help us only conditionally. What remains is to decipher the question of how they relate to each other.

The pair of *loudspeakers* – *stone* on the floor are turned towards each other. The speaker, with no housing, uses the room as a sound box. Its soft and abstract monologue is an endless noise absorbed by the stone like a sponge. In a strange way, the stone embodies the stranger's sojourn. Coming from afar, the rough carrier of information is exposed to a seemingly encrypted tradition.

Furthermore, there are two small, adjacent deposits of red sand placed on the floor of the octagon. The one pile consists of coarse-grained red sand particles; the other has a very fine red-earth colored sand structure. The material has been sieved, separately, to generate both deposits. In their silent presence, the observer immediately senses that relation, as well as a traditional and, if one would like to say so, original creative activity of a human subject unknown to us.

The wall-mounted basin contains water. Apart from the storage properties, the water evaporates during the course of the exhibition. The presence and the disappearance, thus the time/duration extend in this way. The ephemeral process ties in with the continuum of the installation and describes an intermediate state in the now.

Eye head forehead face hand arm etc.

Auge Kopf Stirn Gesicht Hand Arm, usw.

עין ראש מצח אפים יד זרוע

عين ريس جبين وجه يد ذراع

The second auditory level is objective. It sounds from a separate and barely visible speaker system. Twelve terms for parts of the body can be heard and are spoken by a total of 24 people each in their native language (Hebrew, Arabic, English and

German). The pauses between the individual terms are about 40 seconds, which contribute to expanding time. Visitors are confronted with their own body; their perceptual space is thus occupied. For the sound, Korn uses audio elements from *Kairos* of a production for the German radio station Südwestrundfunk from the year 2017. As a religious-philosophical term, *kairos* (Greek) indicates the right point of time of short duration and contrasts with the long-time period expressed by *chronos* (Greek).

Paroikein seems to be a ritual, an algorithm that charges the place with energy.

Roman Zheleznyak