

MEDIA INFORMATION

Wake Words

An exhibition by and with The Golden Pixel Cooperative

Conceived by Enar de Dios Rodríguez, Olena Newkryta, and Marlies Pöschl

Opening: TH, 30 09 2021, 5:00 – 10:00 pm

Duration: FR, 01 10 2021 – SA, 27 11 2021

Artists: Iris Blauensteiner & Rojin Sharafi, Enar de Dios Rodríguez, Eva Giolo, Nathalie Koger, Saadia Mirza, Joana Moll, Olena Newkryta & Nana Thurner, Pedro Oliveira, Bárbara Palomino Ruiz, Marlies Pöschl, Miae Son, Katharina Swoboda, Lisa Truttmann & Behrouz Rae, Diana Vidrascu, Clemens von Wedemeyer, Young-Hae Chang Heavy Industries, and Katarina Zdjelar

PRESS TOUR: WE, 29 09 2021, 10:00 am

PRESS and

IMAGE MATERIAL: www.kunstraum.net/en/press

PROGRAMME:

Curator Tour

FR, 01 10 2021, 5:00 pm

Public Guided Tours

SA, 16 10 2021, 1:00 pm

SA, 30 10 2021, 1:00 pm

SA, 27 11 2021, 1:00 pm **Come Together Tour**

Performance in the framework of Vienna Art Week

Strom (Iris Blauensteiner & Rojin Sharafi)

TH, 18 11 2021, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Long Night of Museums Vienna

SA, 02 10 2021, 6:00 pm – 01:00 am

Wake Words

With *Wake Words*, the collective **The Golden Pixel Cooperative** presents an extraordinary exhibition in Kunstraum Niederoesterreich: hearing, not seeing, is central in this project. The title refers to so-called “wake words” – words used to rouse someone from sleep or get someone’s attention. In the technological context, one can also speak of “activation commands”, which are used, for example, to call our smartphones out of standby mode. Many electronic devices listen in when their owners are speaking in order to be immediately available when they hear their special wake word, be it “Alexa” or “Siri”. At the same time, there is something inherently enchanting about such words; their power is reminiscent of magic phrases like “open sesame” or “abracadabra”. The exhibition *Wake Words* refers to the power of such invocations, which operate in a zone between dream and wakefulness. The Golden Pixel Cooperative develops artistic-curatorial strategies that focus on auditory perception – on the one hand in relation to the open sound audible in the exhibition, which is designed by the composer Rojin Sharafi; on the other hand in the accompanying audio publication, which gathers artistic-scientific contributions in the form of audio pieces.

A main departure point is the notion of “voice recognition”. It is creeping into many everyday situations in our lives and, like so many technological innovations, seems to be “neutral” and useful. However, the formulation already assumes a certain concept of a voice that is to be recognised. Are there voices which are not recognised and thus go unheard? In a world where attempts are being made to attach background profiles

or social status to one's voice, isn't there a potential advantage in remaining unheard and incognito?

Speech recognition systems employ standardisation processes, which ensure that the input is readable for the machines. In this process, there runs a danger, on the one hand, that an apparently objective algorithm disadvantages certain individuals, as it is often based on historically distorted or discriminating data. On the other, the rules of standardisation lead to deviations going unrecognised – which bears an enormous potential, as every form of improvisation remains unreadable and thus becomes a subversive act. *Wake Words* investigates this field of tension between improvisation and standardisation, while playing with the interpretative and creative potentials that arise.

“Inspired by forms of resistance that are made possible through processes of encoding and coding, or that can take place in linguistic spaces that are not accessible, permeable, or interpretable but opaque, the exhibited artworks embrace diverse aesthetic, political, and formal approaches in order to explore the potential of voices that remain unintelligible.”

(the curators)

The Golden Pixel Cooperative (GPC) is an association for moving images, arts, and media, active within both exhibition and cinema contexts. Our goal is to develop sustainable structures for the production, distribution, and presentation of moving image works by contemporary artists, and to facilitate exchange and support between artists. In 2021 The Golden Pixel Cooperative was awarded the Diagonale Prize for Innovative Cinema for their first joint film project.

The Curators

Enar de Dios Rodríguez

Enar de Dios Rodríguez is a visual artist whose interdisciplinary work includes video, photography, and installations. In her artistic practice, the selective process of existing visual and textual material serves as a starting point for an exploration of the poetic and its political applicability. Her research-based projects reflect upon the production

of space and its socio-political and environmental consequences. She is a founding collaborator of the project *SEEC Photography*, which combines the natural sciences with art.

Enar de Dios Rodríguez *1986 in Spain, lives and works in Vienna.

Olena Newkryta

In her artistic practice, the Ukrainian-Austrian artist Olena Newkryta unites photography, moving images, and installations. She studied at the University of Applied Arts Vienna and at the Gerrit Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam. Her artwork has been awarded with prizes and grants, including the STARTscholarship of the Austrian Federal Ministry for Culture, the Kunsthalle Wien Prize, and the Prize of the Lentos Museum Art-Friends, and presented in international exhibitions and screenings.

Olena Newkryta *1990 in Ukraine, lives and works in Vienna.

Marlies Pöschl

Marlies Poeschl is an artist and filmmaker. She is a graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, where she also taught from 2018 to 2020. As a founding member and chairperson of The Golden Pixel Cooperative, she is engaged in sustainable conditions for the production and distribution of moving image works. With a background in collaborative projects and her focus on different forms of knowledge exchange, Pöschl creates multiperspectival films and installations. She sees the production of films as a social practice and incorporates the processual nature of film into her work.

Marlies Pöschl *1982 in Salzburg, lives and works in Vienna.

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Image material: www.kunstraum.net/en/press

Opening hours: Tuesday–Friday, 11:00 am – 7:00 pm, and Saturday 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

Free entrance