

STERNENNEBEL / STAR NEBULAE  
SUSAN PHILIPSZ  
MONIKA SOSNOWSKA

May 17 to July 6, 2008  
Opening: Friday, May 16, 7 p.m.

The title for the fourth instalment of our 2007/2008 programme was likewise taken from a drawing in Bruno Taut's visionary *Alpine Architecture* book, published shortly after the First World War. In «Star Nebulae» we see a subtle sound installation by Susan Philipsz and a surprising architectural installation by Monika Sosnowska that extracts visitors from time and space, giving them a new and unfamiliar perspective of the (exhibition) space.

In astronomy, the term «nebulae» originally referred to all sprawling luminous objects in the celestial sphere: stellar associations, galaxies or clusters seen with the naked eye or via a low-resolution telescope have the appearance of clouds – diffuse forms in the sky. Similarly, Bruno Taut's drawing of the same name includes light spiral or star-shaped bodies, circles and ovals drifting in the void.

In their exploration of space – but also of (diffuse) volumes – Susan Philipsz and Monika Sosnowska create a subtle interplay between sound and architecture.

Scottish artist **Susan Philipsz** works primarily with sounds, her own voice and melodies that she connects with the location. In Rapperswil she will be displaying «The Glass Track» (2005). The dark, empty exhibition space is filled with the sounds created by rubbing a moistened finger around the edge of a glass.

At the end of the «sound space» created by Philipsz, **Monika Sosnowska** takes visitors into a corridor («Untitled (Labyrinth)», 2003) almost completely hidden behind a wall, whose end is neither visible nor indeed physically accessible. In typical style, what the Polish artist creates here is also an architecture that is familiar and evokes a range of associations while at the same time constantly questioning our expectations. Sosnowska's manipulation of proportions and her creation of optical illusions mean that the space is often not that which it was initially understood to be. Entering Sosnowska's spaces has us reflecting on our own condition.

The two artists will create two spaces in the Alte Fabrik that can be perceived and interpreted by visitors in different ways. The celestial and at the same time the concretely architectural also reflected in Taut's drawings resurface in the works of the two artists.

**Susan Philipsz** was born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1965 and now lives in Berlin. Last year she contributed to «Skulpturen Projekte Münster». Her works are currently on display in the 55th Carnegie International («Life on Mars») at the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, USA.

**Monika Sosnowska** was born in Ryki, Poland in 1972 and is based in Warsaw. In 2007 she designed the Polish pavilion at the Venice Biennale and also had a solo show («Loop») at the Liechtenstein Art Museum in Vaduz. An extensive exhibition of her work is on show at the Schaulager museum in Basle until September 21.

## FURTHER EVENTS:

**Thursday, May 22, 7 p.m.**

### **The Monte Rosa hut – A nugget of «Alpine Architecture»**

Presentation by Marcel Baumgartner, project manager of the Studio Monte Rosa

Here at the foot of Switzerland's highest peak – the Dufourspitze, across from the famous Matterhorn, and surrounded by glaciers, rocks and snow – is where Bruno Taut presented his «Monte Rosa development» comprising a «glass bell in glass struts, arches and crystals» in the early 20th century. It is also where a project group from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich has for years been planning a similarly futuristic construction; the new Swiss Alpine Club hut on Monte Rosa is not just visionary in terms of its exterior. The use of cutting-edge technology and innovative architecture will serve to document a new standard in the field of mountain architecture.

Marcel Baumgartner, head of the Studio Monte Rosa at the ETH, will be talking about the spectacular Alpine undertaking, including a progress report and what it's like to build in the mountains.

**Sunday, June 1, 11 a.m.**

### **Public tour**

Birgit Fritsch and Ursula Meier from the Alte Fabrik provide a guided tour of «Star Nebulae».

### **Opening times:**

Wednesday to Friday: 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Many thanks to:

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