

Aiming at reaching out new and diverse audiences and commenting on the city itself, KØS Museum of Art in Public Spaces initiates a series of exhibitions that will be realized in every two years in the urban and rural geography of the city of Køge.

Humming is the working title of the pilot edition that will be realized in August and September of 2021 with the participation of 25 international and Danish artists, writers / poets and thinkers. With the exception of a few already existing works, the exhibition will be comprised of mostly new commissions inspired by the conceptual frame as well as the public spaces of Køge. There will be varied proposals in diverse formats such as performances, reading sessions, workshops, walking & talking tours, film screenings, architectural and sculptural interventions as well as video works and installations through wide-ranging narratives and imaginary that bring philosophy, science, history and poetry together.

Indicating indistinctive sounds / expressions referring to a pre-language state, which we cannot define and understand clearly, “humming” in the context of the exhibition points out to the need of creating a new understanding and lexicon to be able to function beyond the human-centred perspective and already existing knowledge production regimes, not to repeat the similar conceptual frames, thus similar systems. As a common thread between human beings and “other than human persons”, *Humming* can serve as a beginning to think over the interspecies relationship: how the existence and survival of all beings, all life forms are interconnected with each other and mutually dependent. With this title, it is aimed to dislocate the central place of human beings to open up a space for listening to the voices of “other than human persons” and dwell on the possibility of a “collaborative survival”.

From recent research in microbiology and anthropology to social sciences and environmental studies focusing on Anthropocene the “undesigned effects of human interventions”, as expressed by the collective research platform Feral Atlas, the exhibition seeks to cultivate an experience in the junction of these separate scientific fields and contemporary art. *Humming* will be a site where fiction and reality, animate and inanimate, culture and nature, science and belief, past and future, advanced and regressed, self and the (absolute) other melt into one another and merge. Instead of a progressive understanding of time and the dominant knowledge-production regimes, the exhibition suggests suspending our usual understanding of the relationship between such dualities, and proposes an interwovenness with many possible worlds, focusing on contingencies and entanglements.

Furthermore, the exhibition is also a commentary on present manifestations of art in public domain, attempting to connect its past to future incarnations.

In terms of geography, *Humming* focuses on Køge Bay; both the industrial harbour and the marina, as well as the coasts on the two ends of the harbour. Tangmoseskoven, the small woods behind the marina which sits on top of a garbage hill is also a part of the focus areas as it exemplifies what we call “nature” today in a hybrid form. From the bay, following the river that is going to the inner city of Køge, the exhibition will study the sea, the river, the square, the alleys (both public and private), the church and the museum. Additionally, the

social housing areas located on the periphery of the city such as Ellemarken and Hastrup will be sites for socially engaged projects. Taking the geography of the city as the departure point, the exhibition aspires to juxtapose it with fiction and poetry.

What hums? Humans hum. Tremor hums. Pipes hum. Animals hum. Industry hums. Oceans hum. Cities hum. Motion hums. Forests hum. Highways hum. Tectonic layers hum... The stones hum in Olga Ravn's book¹. What is more in the book is that the future hums. The past hums as in the song of Portishead from 1997 with the title "Humming". Artworks hum or science hums for a new experience or understanding of the World comprising of many worlds.

It is the connection between between us and all the other beings, animate or inanimate. It is our chance to listen to the sound we don't understand

So hummings can be a disturbing sound or a musical one that is relaxing. It can be factual or psychological.

¹ Olga Ravn, "Employees, A Workplace novel of the 22nd century"