

Dear Lawrence, dear Andree,

We are writing to you from the KØS Museum of Art in Public Spaces, Køge DK in regards to the *Humming* exhibition that will be realized in public spaces in Køge and its vicinity opening on the 14th of August 2021. This is the pilot edition of a series of exhibitions in public domain that will be held every second year. Attached is the press release of the *Humming* that will be published internationally after the 11th of June, 2021.

Certainly, humming refers to a wide range of phenomena: from the noise produced by machines to the sound created by gas piping through the tectonic layers of the Earth or to the sound of the mating call of a male midshipman fish in the ocean. No matter what, it offers us to take a chance to imagine a language connecting all beings, animate or inanimate.

Humming is about plurality of voices; a metaphorical device to reflect on the possibility of voicing the invisible / silent, unprivileged, repressed or vulnerable for a "Collaborative Survival"¹. It is a call to attend to what is happening unnoticed in front of our eyes, the unreckoned, the yet-to-be or in-between states of becoming, thus, to conceive and be liable for what is appearing on the horizon, though not visible nor clear, yet.

Indicating indistinctive sounds and expressions referring to a pre-language state, which we cannot define and understand clearly, humming can be considered as a common thread between human beings and "other-than-human-persons"², thus, 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 human-centred perspective to open up a space for listening to the hummings from a future, where the dichotomy between the human and non-human is reconciled.

Informed by recent research in microbiology and anthropology to social sciences and environmental studies, 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.

In the exhibition, there will be both existing works and new commissions juxtaposing fiction and poetry with the urban and rural public spaces of Køge. With the participation of 25 international and Danish artists, writers / poets and thinkers, it will include 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.

We are very interested in your research-based practice, bringing diverse fields such as politics/ geopolitics, human rights, law, language(s) and contemporary art together through politics of sound. Moreover, when we learned very recently about your project *Earwitness Inventory*, we thought that it is a sine qua non for the *Humming*. Both your work and *Humming* are in the search of or on imagining a language: "that we do not yet speak, a language of and between objects"³

Although we have already finalized the invitations to the exhibition almost a month ago, we couldn't stop writing to you to explore the possibilities of including a selection from the *Earwitness Inventory* to the *Humming* exhibition.

As the exhibition will take place in the urban spaces of Køge, we even consider a venue for the *Earwitness Inventory*, an industrial depo in the harbour area. Attached we are sending you a couple of visuals to give you an idea.

We do hope that our exhibition project *Humming*s is interesting for you and it is possible for you to carve out some time to start a conversation on your possible participation.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Our very best,

Ulrikke Neergaard and Fulya Erdemci

¹ Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing, *The Mushroom at the End of the World: On the Possibility of Life in Capitalist Ruins*, Princeton University Press, 2015

² Drawing on the cross-cultural anthropological debates mostly by the South American scholars, we prefer to use this term in order to shift from the human-centred vantage point as well as escaping from the binary oppositional structure of the term “non-human”.

³ From the website of Lawrence Abu Hamdan, text of “Earwitness Inventory”.