

Lentos Kunstmuseum

Come Sing Along! On Raising Our Voices 04.10.24 to 05.01.25

The exhibition is dedicated to the aspect of communal singing from the perspective of contemporary art. The Lentos show brings together 22 national and international positions for which voice and singing are fundamental reference points.

Alone in the shower, with our children in the car, or with strangers in a stadium – singing is everywhere. Singing is not just a way to pass the time. It also creates community, is a way to express identities, and conveys dissent and resistance during protests. The exhibition brings together 22 approaches to the subject of singing, focusing on new interpretations and adaptations as well as music as a collective practice. "Singing brings people together, expresses emotions, and conveys important messages. This exhibition demonstrates how artists use singing to make their concerns visible and audible," says Hemma Schmutz, Director of the Lentos Museum.

Come Sing Along! combines video and sound installations with participatory projects and visual works of art that enable visitors to experience the voice, singing, and community in multiple ways within an exhibition environment designed by Jakob Neulinger. "It is about rediscovering and making visible the potential of communal singing—as a powerful expression of unity and togetherness in times of increasing social division," explain the curators Klaus Speidel and Sarah Jonas. The exhibition presents multifaceted interpretations of the theme, featuring international artists such as Nengi Omuku (NG), Michèle Pearson Clarke (TT/CA), Rory Pilgrim (GB/NL), and Henk Schutt (NL), being shown in Austria for the first time. Additionally, works by Ines Doujak (AT), Nikolaus Gansterer (AT), and Ayumi Paul (DE/JP/GR) have been specially created for the Lentos exhibition. "With 'Come Sing Along!' the Lentos is making a bold and, above all, international statement in celebration of the Anton Bruckner Year 2024. The exhibition invites people to rediscover the power of the voice and to actively engage with societal issues," emphasizes Doris Lang-Mayerhofer, City Councillor for Culture, Tourism, and Creative Industries.

Tradition and Reinterpretation

The artists in the exhibition draw on national song culture, both folk and modern songs, addressing grief, deploying humor, and offering reinterpretations of old songs to express their diverse concerns. Maria Lassnig and Hubert Sielecki, for example, add autobiographical lyrics to an old Viennese ballad, while Johanna and Helmut Kandl show how Joseph Haydn's famous melody *Gott erhalte Franz den Kaiser* [*God Save Francis the Emperor*], which has provided the basis of national anthems, is linked to love and folk songs. Mathilde ter Heijne emphasizes the importance of traditional lamentations in coming to terms with traumatic experiences.

Song as Empowerment

For people who are not free to raise their voices or are not being heard, singing can be a powerful act of self-assertion. Thus, artists have used music as a way to react to the systematic oppression and disenfranchisement of minorities. Giving a voice to those that are underrepresented, they bring to the fore concerns that are ignored or silenced.

The destructive consequences of the colonial ambitions of many European nations, which are still being felt today – be it on the African or South American continents – form the point of departure for Sammy Baloji and Bartolina Xixa's works. While Baloji addresses the role of the Catholic Church, demonstrating how Christian choral traditions have been interwoven with indoctrination in the Congo, Xixa denounces the destruction of nature and exploitation of the indigenous population in her Argentinian homeland. Clément

Cogitore's work counteracts racist stereotypes with a reinterpretation of a French opera ballet that takes the form of a choreography, offering young migrant dancers a stage to make themselves and their concerns visible. Dejan Kaludjerović's opera-based video installation provides children from various nations with a voice.

The sound installation by artist Henk Schut in the annex space offers an immersive listening experience, situating the historical dimensions of a vocal work for the church within the context of anti-democratic processes currently underway.

Work and Protest

When collective singing is considered in the context of protests, the workers' movement and its struggle against the global consequences of capitalist exploitation take on particular significance. Ines Doujak's new sculpture created especially for the exhibition and the workers' songs she has written point to the complex mechanisms of neoliberal dominance and its consequences. Mikhail Karikis and Uriel Orlow's video addresses the changing global economy by having a miners' choir perform at an old coal mine, standing in a formation that recalls a picket line.

Atmospheres of Community

Even though singing together in public spaces is less common today than it was 50 years ago, it can still be witnessed at major events and political rallies as a community-building practice. At the invitation of the Lentos, Nikolaus Gansterer is addressing this subject in his work: in a stadium, at a demonstration, and at a concert, he takes precise notes of his perceptions, subsequently conveying the atmosphere of such moments in large-scale drawings. Nengi Omuku's paintings feature groups of people that she compares to the chorus of antique theater. In expressive, surrealist colors, she creates large-scale atmospheric images depicting, for example, the elections in her home country Nigeria.

Intimacy and Individuality

Not all artists in the exhibition focus on collective moments. Some works address intimate subjects that, through their emotionality, place humanity center stage. Singing here enables us to share in individual stories and perspectives.

For Michèle Pearson Clarke, singing becomes an expression of vulnerability. The process of learning to sing becomes a symbol of personal development in coming to terms with her own queer identity. Rory Pilgrim's work *The Undercurrent* focuses on the intimate experiences, hopes, and desires of young people and the homeless in the context of global challenges like climate change. Finally, Chto Delat uses an emotionally triggered internet user sitting in front of a screen as an example of manipulations by global corporations.

Come Sing Along!

What would an exhibition about singing be without an opportunity for visitors to raise their own voices? In the newly created audio piece by artist and musician Ayumi Paul, the voice appears as a medium of resistance, which any individual can experience with the help of brief voice and breathing exercises. Meanwhile, the karaoke installation by artist Christian Jankowski in the foyer of the Lentos offers more than 3,000 international songs to choose from. They enable visitors to experience the power of communal singing for themselves.

The exhibition is accompanied by a diverse supporting program, including a vocal workshop with voice coach and artist Elisa Andessner, as well as communal embroidery sessions set to compositions by Anton Bruckner. The exhibition *Come Sing Along! On Raising Our Voices* is on view at the Lentos until January 5th.

Artists

Sammy Baloji (CG/BE)
Chto Delat (RU)
Michèle Pearson Clarke (TT/CA)
Clément Cogitore (FR)
Ines Doujak (AT)
Noam Enbar (IL)
Nikolaus Gansterer (AT)
Mathilde ter Heijne (FR/DE)
Dejan Kaludjerović (YU/AT)
Mikhail Karikis (GR/GB) und Uriel Orlow (CH/PT)
Helmut und Johanna Kandl (AT)
Anton Kolig (AT)
Nengi Omuku (NG)
Christian Jankowski (DE)
Maria Lassnig und Hubert Sielecki (AT)
Rory Pilgrim (GB/NL)
Ayumi Paul (DE/GR)
Gerhard Rühm (AT)
Henk Schut (NL)
Bartolina Xixa (AR)
Bruce Yonemoto (US)
Otto Zitko (AT)

Program

Karaoke in the museum!

The installation *The Day We Met* by artist Christian Jankowski invites all visitors to pick up the microphone themselves. The karaoke room can be used in the Lentos foyer during opening hours.

Ayumi Paul, *Sounding Seeds*, 2024

At the invitation of the Lentos the artist and trained musician Ayumi Paul has created an audio piece for the exhibition "Come Sing Along!" in which, employing her interdisciplinary approach, she addresses the show's content. The work, part of the series "Sounding Seeds," invites listeners to join the artist on an acoustic journey, during which she explores the variety of ways in which sound and song have shaped our world. Paul regards the voice as a medium of resistance. Using examples from history, she narrates the power it contains. With the assistance of brief vocal and breathing exercises, the artist guides listeners in exploring the possibilities of their own voices.

The series "Sounding Seeds" is part of the comprehensive project "The Singing Project", which Ayumi Paul has been continuously developing since 2019. The Lentos is presenting the artist's work for the first time in Austria.

The work can also be accessed online at <https://youtu.be/KDv7LajmHv8>

Events

Opening

Thu 03.10. 19.00

Welcome: Hemma Schmutz (Director Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz), Introduction: Klaus Speidel (Curator), Opening: Doris Lang-Mayerhofer (City Councillor for Culture of the City of Linz). With a performance by the vocal ensemble LALÁ. Free admission

Bruckner embroidery

Sun 13.10. 14.00-17.00

The artist Cécile Belmont invites you to take part in her art project Brucknersticken. Together you will create a lively, polyphonic work, stitch by stitch, to a composition by Anton Bruckner. The result is an embroidered, textile work of art with choral works as background music.

No previous knowledge necessary! Material will be provided.

Participation free of charge

Registration required on +43 732 7070 3614 or online at lentos.at

Workshop: Raise your voice!

Sun 27.10.

Sat 16.11. each 10.00-13.00

What does it take to be heard? The workshop with voice trainer and artist Elisa Andessner combines practical exercises to strengthen the voice with the content of the exhibition. These personal experiences are combined with intensive discussions on selected works of art.

Cost: € 8 plus admission

Registration required on +43 732 7070 3614 or online at lentos.at, limited places

Guided tours

Public guided tours

Thu 6pm

Sun 4pm

Tue 4pm

With a tour of the collection exhibition

Combined guided tour ticket € 4 plus admission, duration 1 hour

Guided tour with sign language interpreter

Sat 09.11., 4-5pm

Free admission for deaf people

Curator guided tour

Thu 14.11., 6-7pm

The curators Hemma Schmutz, Klaus Speidel and Sarah Jonas will guide you through the exhibition.

Guided tour ticket € 4 plus admission Costs: € 4 plus museum admission

Children & Family

Long Night of the Museums

Sat 05.10., 6pm-01:00am

"Come sing along!" is the motto at Lentos. Everything revolves around the phenomenon of singing together and raising your voice. Exciting highlights of modern and contemporary art can be experienced during the guided tours. In the studio and in the karaoke box, visitors are invited to get active themselves!

More at langenacht.orf.at

Children's culture week

09. to 20.10.

All studios at reduced prices. Free admission for families (two adults and children up to 18 years).

More at kinderkulturwoche.linz.at

Baby Tour

Tue 29.10., 10.30-11.30

A relaxed tour through the exhibition, tailored to the needs of visitors with babies.

Cost: museum admission only

Schools

Research workshop:

Make a Noise!

Together we will explore the exhibition's soundscapes and visual worlds. The individual observations serve as a basis for writing our own messages and reworking them artistically.

Suitable from grade 8

Duration selectable: 1 or 1.5 hours

Costs: € 4 or 5 per pupil

Registration and information for the school programs at +43 732 7070 3614 or kunstvermittlung@lentos.at

Factsheet

Exhibition title	Come Sing Along! On Raising Our Voices
Exhibition periode	04.10.24 to 05.01.25
Credits	Curators: Hemma Schmutz, Klaus Speidel, Sarah Jonas Exhibition architecture: Jakob Neulinger
Artists	Sammy Baloji (CG/BE), Chto Delat (RU), Michèle Pearson Clarke(TT/CA), Clément Cogitore (FR), Ines Doujak (AT), Noam Enbar (IL), Nikolaus Gansterer (AT), Mathilde ter Heijne (FR/DE), Dejan Kaludjerović (YU/AT), Mikhail Karikis (GR/GB) und Uriel Orlow (CH/PT), Helmut und Johanna Kandl (AT), Anton Kolig (AT), Nengi Omuku (NG), Christian Jankowski (DE), Maria Lassnig und Hubert Sielecki (AT), Rory Pilgrim (GB/NL), Ayumi Paul (DE/GR), Gerhard Rühm (AT), Henk Schut (NL), Bartolina Xixa (AR), Bruce Yonemoto (US), Otto Zitko (AT)
Exhibition venue	Big Hall
Exhibition booklet	The exhibition is accompanied by a comprehensive exhibition booklet in German and English with texts on all the artworks.
Cooperation	The exhibition is a cooperation project with the Anton Bruckner Year 2024.
Opening hours	Tue-Sun 10am-6pm, Thu 10am-8pm Mon closed, special opening hours can be found at www.lentos.at
Admission fee	€ 11, reduced € 9 / € 5
Press contact	Clarissa Ujvari-Hanten M: +43 650 48 49 706 T: +43 (0)732 7070-3603 clarissa.ujvari-hanten@lentos.at Ernst-Koref-Promenade 1 4020 Linz
Web & Social Media	www.lentos.at facebook.com/lentoslinz instagram.com/lentoslinz

Images

Press images and exhibition views are available for download on our website for the duration of the exhibition at <https://www.lentos.at/museum/presse/pressekit-komm-sing-mit>. Royalty-free use is permitted only within the scope of current reporting on the exhibition, provided image credits are included.