

HOŠEK CONTEMPORARY



CARRIED BELLS

A process-based installation by **Kovács/O'Doherty**

5.–25. October, 2019, at **Hošek Contemporary**, MS Heimatland, Fischerinsel, Berlin-Mitte

Vernissage: 7pm on **Saturday, 5. October, 2019**

Info: carriedbells.com · Downloads, photos, etc: carriedbells.com/press · Video: vimeo.com/351896857

This October, **Hošek Contemporary**, the unique Berlin gallery housed on a repurposed boat in the river Spree, will present an innovative new work: *Carried Bells*, by the artist duo **Kovács/O'Doherty** (**Kata Kovács and Tom O'Doherty**). The work will be presented from Saturday, 5. October to Friday, 25. October, 2019, and will grow and develop over the course of its presentation. There will be a vernissage event on Saturday, 5. October, from 7pm.

Carried Bells is a process-based work, in which recordings are created of a series of ringing church bells from the city of Berlin, through a repeating daily task. *Carried Bells* will harvest traces of the sounds of the city, day by day, considering acoustic phenomena, social history, and the potential of public space. This work is the latest in a series of innovative exhibitions and events to be presented at **Hošek Contemporary**, reaffirming the gallery's commitment to investigating the radical potential of time-based, sound-based, performative, and ephemeral work.

Kata Kovács and Tom O'Doherty have worked since 2011 on exploring potential combinations of sound, time, and movement. These investigations have led them to present work in diverse locations — from LACMA, Los Angeles, and Serralves Museum, Porto, through to Digital in Berlin's *Kiezsalon* series, the Berlin DAT Festival, and beyond. *Carried Bells* is the latest step in their ongoing work with these artistic possibilities.

About the work

Carried Bells is based around a task that recurs each day. This task is to record and 'carry' the sound of a ringing church bell, and to accompany it with photographs documenting this process. For each day of the presentation of the work, the artists will record the sound of a ringing bell, at a different location in Berlin, and photograph this process. They will then re-play and loop the audio, via a small hand-carried speaker — and they will then start to walk. They will keep playing this sound as they walk, transporting the speaker on foot, out of its original context, and publicly and audibly moving it through the city, back to the central collection point at Hošek Contemporary. Here, it will be added to the accumulating total of recordings of bells from around the city, each accompanied by their own associated daily photographs — taken using Polaroid-style analogue instant film, allowing a physical artefact and visual image to accompany each sound. This repeating task will add a new layer to the emerging work each day. The work will carry twenty bells, over twenty days, along with a final day on Friday, 25. October, when the work is complete, during which there will be a finissage event.

Every day, bells ring throughout Berlin. These objects are unique hand-made musical instruments, often centuries old. Historically, the process of creating, installing, and ringing them has required a combination of technological, industrial, artistic, social, musical, cultural, and religious aspects.

Bells are ceremonial objects, calling together communities, marking events, and communicating information both religious and secular. Alongside this, bells are also a sonic trace of technological history — the ringing of bells in a peal is a mathematical process, and a direct antecedent to algorithmic programming. Bells shape architecture, and are shaped by it — they are part of the built environment of the city, yet their presence is ephemeral and transient, refracted off streets and surfaces. Bells are a marker of time, and presaged the necessity for accurate timekeeping that accompanied the rise of industrial capitalism. The development of bell-making mirrors the history of industrialised weaponry — the processes required to forge a bell or a cannon are almost identical. Conversely, bells have also often been melted down during wartime in order to be recycled into weapons — most recently throughout Berlin during the second world war. *Carried Bells* is informed by each of these aspects, while also emphasising the corresponding history of bells as musical instruments, going back thousands of years around the world. *Carried Bells* is also a work structured by walking — an act which, like bell-ringing, can be both sacred and ordinary. Walking and carrying are symbolically associated with pilgrimage and ritual, but are also mundane facts of being present in a community and in an environment.

Carried Bells will work with bells that range in age from five years to 800 years old. Bells are complex musical instruments, which are also, obviously, fixed in place. As such, they are rarely listened to outside of their immediate surroundings. Each bell has its own sound, pitch, and intensity, as defined by its size, shape, material, and location. In combining these sounds together, this work allows individual elements to combine in unpredictable ways, building a constantly-changing composition from the sounds of a steadily-growing number of bells, creating unexpected harmonies, dissonances, overtones, pauses, and juxtapositions. *Carried Bells* aims to bring these sounds out of the backgrounds of our attention, to recontextualise them, and to re-imagine them.

About Kovács/O’Doherty

Kata Kovács and Tom O’Doherty have worked as a collaborative duo since 2011. Their work combines elements of durational and time-based art, minimalist movement, and electroacoustic music and sound. They have exhibited and presented work at Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California; Serralves Museum, Porto; National Museum of Contemporary Art (Chiado), Lisbon; Kunstquartier Bethanien, Berlin; Kunstkraftwerk, Leipzig; and Digital in Berlin’s Kiezsalon series, Berlin, among others. They have been recipients of the LACMA Art + Technology Lab Award, and of the *Tanzstipendium* award of the Berlin Senatsverwaltung für Kultur und Europa. They live and work in Berlin.



Kata Kovács and Tom O’Doherty are available for interviews and press queries – for more information, please phone 0049-151-1658-3748 or email mail@kovacsodoherty.com.

About Hošek Contemporary

Hošek Contemporary, established in 2016, is an art residency and gallery located on a boat in Berlin-Mitte. The gallery focuses primarily on performing arts, experimental sound installations, and dance.

Carried Bells: carriedbells.com · Hošek Contemporary: hosekcontemporary.com · Kovács/O’Doherty: kovacsodoherty.com

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