

# HOŠEK CONTEMPORARY

— EST. 2016 —

## CHELSEA LEVENTHAL - PSYCHOANALYSIS OF FIRE

Opening reception: 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 7 - 10 pm

Exhibition period: 20<sup>th</sup> October - 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023

*Psychoanalysis of Fire* is a multi sensory, multichannel sound installation that draws on Gaston Bachelard's book of the same name. Bachelard examines fire as a source of fear and fascination, a symbol of life and death, something both intimate and universal, and perhaps most essentially as the "first object of reverie, the symbol of repose." The composition focuses on the acoustic byproducts of combustion, deeply ingrained in the human experience yet consistently either overlooked or extremely fraught in contemporary society. These sounds are echoed by recordings of extended instrumental techniques that reconstruct the spatial and timbral qualities of a slowly dying bonfire. Employing heat and light from infrared sources, the piece considers the anthropological context and social connotations of fire and flame. Fire is examined not as a chemical process, but as a psycho sensory construct.

The piece was commissioned by the Wittener Tage für neue Kammermusik.

### About the artist

Chelsea Leventhal (\*Berkshire County, USA) is a sound artist and composer of electroacoustic music based in Berlin, Germany. Her pieces engage the reanimation and articulation of space, perception of auditory archetypes, and creation of sonic allegories, taking the form of site-specific sound installations in public space and multichannel sound works featuring sculptural components, visual elements, or video. The domestic soundscape, psychogeographical exploration of urban spaces, and the human-nature relationship are recurring themes in her work.

She has received commissions from organisations such as Pépinières Européennes pour Jeunes Artistes in Paris, id11 in Delft, Kultur Mitte and the Bezirksamt Neukölln in Berlin, I-Park Foundation in the USA, and the Wittener Tage für neue Kammermusik, and participated in numerous residencies, including at Hellerau European Centre for the Arts and ZKM in Karlsruhe. Her works have been presented at Maerzmusik in Berlin, Dystopia Festival in Istanbul, the New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival, the Akademie der Künste in Berlin, Skulpturenmuseum Glaskasten in Marl, and other diverse locations. She was a finalist for the European Sound Art Award in 2016 and a recipient of the "Braunschweig Projects" grant from the Ministry of Science and Culture of Lower Saxony in 2017. She has recently been on the guest faculty of the Sound Studies and Sonic Arts MA at the Universität der Künste in Berlin and was the recipient of a grant from the city of Berlin's Department of Culture in 2020.

## Hošek Contemporary

Established by Petr Hošek in 2016, Hošek Contemporary is a gallery and art residency located on a historical cargo ship next to Fischerinsel in Mitte, Berlin. The gallery focuses primarily on site-specific pieces, performing arts and experimental sound works. During the spring and summer months, the gallery is hosting weekly improvised and experimental music installations, with local and international musicians.

## MS Heimatland

Built in 1910 in Fürstenberg an der Oder, MS Heimatland was initially operating under the name Ida and used for transporting coal to Charlottenburg. After the Second World War, the 58-meter long cargo ship was renamed Heimatland, meaning "homeland". Until the 90s, the ship was sailing on Elbe and Havel, moving other boats, sand and chipping. It served for artistic and cultural purposes for the first time in 2002, when German sculptor Christiane Möbus chose it for her Nackte Tatsache Tatsache project. Finally, in March 2018, Heimatland became the main exhibition space and artist residency of Hošek Contemporary. The boat is permanently anchored in the historic port of Berlin.

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