ON ESCH SOUNDSCAPES

Franziska Aigner

Over the course of the first part of her residency in Esch in December 2024, sound artist Franziska Aigner (Frankie), who worked extensively on collaborative visual, performative, and sound art projects, most notably with the German artist Anne Imhof, will record Impulse Responses of a number of spaces related to the steel industry in and around Esch. Impulse responses in music capture the acoustic imprint of a physical space by recording how it reacts to a short, sharp sound– capturing its echoes, reverberations, and spatial decay, allowing us to virtually place other sound sources into these acoustic imprints later on. In relation to the abandonded steel factories in Esch, impulse responses become more than just a tool for recreating acoustics; they act as archival imprints, preserving the ambient qualities of places that might soon exist only in memory. The aim is to create a sort of acoustic hauntology, allowing us to experience the resonance of environments that may no longer physically endure.

FRANZISKA AIGNER (FRANKIE) works at the intersection of music, philosophy and performance. She studied choreography and dance at P.A.R.T.S. with Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker and has performed her own work at theatres and festivals across Europe. Frankie worked with the artist Anne Imhof on the performances Deal (2015), Rage (2015), and Angst (2017), Nature Mortes (2021) as well as FAUST (2017), which was awarded the Golden Lion at the 2017 Venice Biennale. She performed and co-wrote the music to FAUST. In 2019, she joined Holly Herndon's vocal ensemble, performing the album 'PROTO' around the world. In 2020 she completed her PhD at the Centre for Research in Modern European Philosophy (CRMEP), London on the topic of Kant and Technics. She is currently an instructor in philosophy at the New Centre for Research and Practice.

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Franziska Aigner, on-site sonic research with Cornelius Dürst at Cockerill mine, Ellergronn, Esch-sur-Alzette. The mine played a major role in Luxembourg's economic boom. December 2024. Photography by Markus Miessen.