

PRESS RELEASE

Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger | KBH.G presents a project by concept artists Jahic/Roethlisberger:

Music – A Conversation Through Song Titles

Basel, 1 September 2021 – The Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger | KBH.G has cooperated with the Basel-based artist duo Jahic/Roethlisberger for their latest exhibition. The two concept, media and installation artists Admir Jahic and Comenius Roethlisberger will show their latest art and book project called “Music – A Conversation Through Song Titles” from 9 September until 14 November in the exhibition space in KBH.G. Following the international success of their book project “Artists' Recipes”, the two have again invited national and international artists to participate in a dialogue. They will show over 80 conversations about song titles – always handwritten, sometimes with drawings and fifteen of them with neon installations. The exhibition is accompanied by a diverse programme based around music. The free exhibition catalogue and the complete collection of song titles will be self-published by the artists and released at the opening of the exhibition.

The “conversations through song titles” started in 2017 when the artist duo began to write down song titles on an empty sheet of paper taking turns asking each other for another track as an answer to the previous one. The resulting dialogues sounded at times poetic, dadaistic, melancholic or even humorous. During this process, the idea was born to compile a handwritten collection of song titles, selected and written by various artists, and to create a kind of “encyclopaedia of artists’ handwriting”. The result is a collection of over 80 conversations that are shown as handwritten originals and fifteen neon installations. Among the contributors are young artists straight from art school and well-known figures like Albert Oehlen, Judith Bernstein, Alicja Kwade, Richard Deacon, Jeppe Hein, Superflex, Ryan Gander, Roger Ballen, Pedro Reyes, Claudia Comte, Subodh Gupta, Erwin Wurm, Jonathan Monk, Silvia Bächli, Tobias Rehberger and Gregor Hildebrandt. Although the studio of Gerhard Richter, who just wanted to focus on his own work, declined to take part, they sent a friendly note with his good wishes for the book project.

Emotional and artistic journey

It makes sense that Jahic/Roethlisberger turned to music after their successful art and book project “Artists’ Recipes”. After all, they not only share art but also a passion for cooking and music – of course they listen to music while working in their studio. Nothing triggers our autobiographic memory more than smells and music. In a split second, we are thrown back into moments, situations and moods that can be decades old. We cannot control our memories, sometimes happy, sometimes nostalgic or even painful. It is exciting and always surprising to see which different emotions are related to individual tracks or song titles. Jahic/Roethlisberger invite us to join this exciting journey with their exhibition and book project “Music – A Conversation Through Song Titles”. The handwritten originals can be purchased in an auction in support of the non-profit organisation “Viva con Agua Schweiz”.

Openness and independence in the art world

Asking their preferred artists to participate was a challenge for Admir Jahic and Comenius Roethlisberger. Around a third had already participated in “Artists’ Recipes” but they had to first locate most of the others. They describe their journey from their original idea to its implementation as *“We are neither curators nor gallery owners, so some of our requests felt like riding a rollercoaster. We were sometimes stretched to our limits with our second “artist to artist” publication. For such a project, you have to prove yourself, you have to convince others and often be persistent if not stubborn. Maybe we were lucky because as artists we have some leverage when asking other artists. Furthermore, a lot of galleries and curators supported us when contacting the artists.”* Their collaborative way of working and often-applied artist to artist method, an open and unpretentious way of working with other members of the art world, proved successful: no competition, without rigid rules but also without the security of a commercial gallery.

For Raphael Suter, director of Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger | KBH.G, this was another reason for the perfect collaboration: *“The open approach of Admir Jahic and Comenius Roethlisberger and their rejection of the purely commercial art establishment fit well with our foundation as we aim to facilitate and promote open access to art with all our projects.”*

Music – A Conversation Through Song Titles

9 September until 14 November 2021

Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger | KBH.G

Daily (except Tuesdays) 11h until 18h or by arrangement – admission and exhibition catalogue are free of charge

Further information:

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About Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger | KBH.G

The Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger | KBH.G was founded in 2019 by the philanthropist Sibylle Geiger (1930–2020) who named the foundation after her grandfather, the Swiss pharmacist and entrepreneur Hermann Geiger (1870–1962). The foundation was established to offer the City of Basel and its inhabitants an innovative platform for art and culture. All activities organised by the Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger aim to add a new theme to the rich cultural offering of the City of Basel. The foundation plans to show two to three artistically independent exhibitions per year with admission and the exhibition catalogue free of charge.

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About Jahic/Roethlisberger

Jahic/Roethlisberger are concept, media and installation artists, working with large-format installations, sculpture, abstract painting, photography and publications, frequently in collaboration with other artists or the public. They adopt everyday objects for their assemblages, often integrating them into an artistic context with humour and irony while posing philosophical questions about our reality and about the world. Jahic/Roethlisberger pursue a minimal approach. A key part of their work is a confrontation with spatial concerns; at the same time, they address their own working relationship and collaborations with other artists.

jahic-roethlisberger.ch | [Instagram](#)

About BOLO PUBLISHING

Bolo Publishing was founded by Admir Jahic and Comenius Roethlisberger in 2013 as an independent publishing house. At the beginning, they published their own catalogues. In 2014, they thought of publishing an annual book. From that, the publication “Artists’ Recipes” came about which was showcased at Art Basel 2015 for the first time. It combines cooking with art and has already run into its third edition. International artists like Marina Abramović, Olafur Eliasson, Anish Kapoor or Erwin Wurm present their favourite recipes and it also includes drawings, collages and photography. “Artists’ Recipes” is available in bookshops as well as in museum stores all around the world. In September 2021, “Music – A Conversation Through Song Titles” will be published

bolo-publishing.ch