

## 20.4 Affektenlehre (2018)

### **Technical details**

Sound installation, Dolby 5.1 sound, 20 min, loop, neon 25 x 188.4 cm, black rubber granule, Portugal

In collaboration with Miguel Martins

### **Synopsis**

The doctrine of the affections was an elaborate theory based on the idea that the passions could be represented by their outward visible or audible signs.

### **Credits**

Concept and artistic direction: Miguel Martins in collaboration with Salomé Lamas

Sound design and mix: Miguel Martins

Additional contribution to sound design: Rodolfo Cardoso

Sound studio: Walla Collective

Producer: Salomé Lamas

Coproducers: Judith Lou Levy, Eve Robin, John Romão

This work was produced with materials collected for the project FATAMORGANA (2016-2019) by Salomé Lamas produced by Lamaland in coproduction with BoCA – Biennial Of Contemporary Arts, Les Films du Bal

FATAMORGANA (2016-2019) was produced with the support of Ministério da Cultura – Direcção Geral das Artes, CCB – Centro Cultural de Belém, Culturgest – Caixa Geral de Depósitos, DGARTES – Direcção Geral das Artes, Colectivo 84 the development support of Marra.tein, Ashkal Alwan, CNAP – Centre National des Arts Plastiques, 2017 Faliro | Sundance Mediterranean Screenwriters Workshop and the additional support of Colecção António Cachola, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Screen Miguel Nabinho, Walla Collective, Íngreme, Alexandra Moura, DB Studios, Hall of Fame, Escola das Artes – Universidade Católica Portuguesa, MacDowell Colony, Yaddo, Fundación Botín

### **Intentions note**

The sound design performance of the “symphony” lasts approximately 20 minutes:

- I. Overture; Allegro ( 5 min.)
- II. Andante; Interlude: L'istesso tempo ( 10 min.)
- III. Con moto ( 5 min.)

Affektenlehre is a German term for the doctrine of affections, or doctrine of affects. A baroque musical theory that describes how each musical composition can express affections through the use of certain musical devices. Typically each they believed that each piece or movement therein should only employ one affect. The baroque theorists garnered this idea from the Ancient Greeks who believed in the power of music to affect the behavior of the listener.

The neon sign ©Fatamorgana explicitly means a “copyrighted mirage” features also in the art direction of the theater show *Fatamorgana* (2017) and the same occurs with the black rubber granule that in *Affektenlehre* absorbs the resonance of the sound with a significant spectrum of frequencies preventing it from distortion.

Neon signs were first presented in 1910 at the Paris Motor Show one of the most important auto shows until today and were widely popular from 1920-1960. These light-emitting tubes form colored lines with which a text can be written or a picture drawn, including various decorations, especially in advertising and commercial signage.

Copyright refers to the exclusive legal right, given to an originator or an assignee to print, publish, perform, film, or record literary, artistic, or musical material, and to authorize others to do the same.

It also calls for the film ©Fatamorgana (2018-2019) where the theme is widely addressed.

The sound design takes the viewer thought-out an existential earthly human journey. The composition features a structured narrative arch that develops throughout tree moments built out of layered soundscapes, atmosphere structures, eclectic sound sources and effects. There is repetition, distortion and circular patterns that connect to a critical insight upon the history of the world.

Opening with the alphabet, a standard set of letters that represent the phonemes of any spoken language, first in Arabic flat and broken, later in an English familiar tune. The theme of language is recurrent within the narrative. The naive alphabet drifts into an authoritarian declaration and the environment breaks into hostility. Abrupt in volume, a rocket self-propels above the viewer’s head conferring volume to the sound that occupies the space. Missiles and martial equipment sing out of tune. Supersonic atmospheres are assembled with marching troops undistinguished if civil or military. The cries of the protesters are merged with the supporters of undefined governments.

A historiography on weaponry comes wrapped in intense shooting aiming in no particular direction. The viewer finds abdominal wall vibrations listening to the intentional low frequencies. Uncomfortably high frequencies coming from air raider sirens along with human screams and debris became unbearable.

The battlefield develops into fireworks dissolved yet by another attack.

Alarms, load the firearm-unload the firearm, shoot-BANG, ammunition resounds in the ground. Political speeches and propaganda vibrate forwards-backwards, modified mixed scratching, industrial atmospheres, bionics and tortured whispers. Baby cries and mumblings under a ceiling, simple toys blend into gentle bells layered with John Lennon from afar.

Anthems, chants and prays in under the dissonant chaos of the Tower of Babel. Countless myths, religious, sects and spiritual beliefs all get their expression while the viewer gets heavily charged with the largest religious groups.

Training camp calls, gun adds, firearms tutorials. Load the firearm-unload the firearm, shoot-BANG, ammunition resounds in the ground impossible to disclose the second it turns into jingling bells.

Howling forests host wild animals. Ecosystem is a community of living organisms in conjunction with the nonliving components of their environment, interacting as a system. These biotic and abiotic components are linked together through nutrient cycles and energy flows. Monkeys sound while elephants make nomadic quests. An intended pastiche of Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968). Void. Time expanding. Electrical storm.. Big Bang. An echography on an anthropomorphic womb and a new heart beats.

*Affektenlehre* was first installed in a bank vault, a secure space where money, valuables, records, and documents are stored. It is intended to protect their contents from theft, unauthorized use, fire, natural disasters, and other threats, built in the basement of the bank.

**Online link**

<https://soundcloud.com/salome-lamas-800205436/2018-affektenlehre/s-qXv9t>



*Affektenlehre* (2018) at Fatamorgana at Culturgest Porto, curated by Delfim Sardo, 2018. Photo by Dinis Santos



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