

Festival Exhibition 2023
Camille Norment: *Gyre*
25 May–13 Aug 2023

Camille Norment, *Plexus*, 2022. Photo: Bill Jacobson.
Image courtesy of the artist and Dia Art Foundation.



Bergen Kunsthall is proud to present the Festival Exhibition 2023 by Camille Norment. The exhibition will transform the galleries of Bergen Kunsthall into an installation that draws all four main galleries together in an expansive sonic experience. Norment is a visual artist, composer and performer. Her work explores the ways in which sound relates to bodies, places, and the constellations of life, history and time embodied in these intersections. The title of the exhibition, *Gyre*, refers to a spiral motion, a vortex. With loops and cycling sound, Norment creates a sonic landscape that visitors are able to explore at their own pace. For the first time in the history of the Festival Exhibition, this exhibition focuses on an artistic work where sound is central, highlighting the importance of sensing with the whole body, and the legacy of interdisciplinary practice in this respect.

In the exhibition at Bergen Kunsthall, each of the galleries will contain works that activate the space through different forms of sound production. Though some of these works are spectacular and large in scale, they inhabit the space as discrete objects that make use of the active acoustics of Bergen Kunsthall's galleries. A sculpture resembling a large, polished brass bell (or horn), with a clapper (or a mute) that seems to be poured from the ceiling; agitated rings of rusty scrap metal and cement; the mesmerising spell of chiming metal spheres: each of these works can be seen as an instrument or device. The work in brass, presented in the largest gallery, is the centre of a complex feedback installation in which the surrounding noise in the space becomes a

part of the future direction of the sound we're listening to. Across the galleries, the exhibition contains polyphonic drum-like rhythms, together with sounds of voices and the chattering of teeth produced by other objects in the exhibition. The composition is tuned to the space of the Kunsthall, and through open doorways, the sounds connect and interfere with each other. In addition, Norment will show a series of new works on paper, made through sound and magnetism, with iron, rainwater and points of ink.

Norment's work builds on a principle that can be called «cultural psychoacoustics», an investigation of sociocultural phenomena through sound and music. The works address «culture» as an underlying system that frames our perception – our habits, beliefs, identities – and how these intersect with larger frameworks, from science, politics, to notions of the self and ideas of spirituality. Norment specifically employs ideas of sonic and social dissonance, such as the phenomenon of feedback, which is commonly seen as a problem, and often eliminated in sound production. As a sound that is generated through an acoustic loop, feedback points to fundamental mechanisms of evolution and the friction of progress and destruction.

Norment is interested in the sonic and its opportunities to create an experience of such entangled sensations and environments, and the spaces of agency it opens to listeners reflecting individually, as well as within the shared space of collective experience.

Camille Norment, Untitled (Blue Heat), performance at Renaissance Society Chicago 2019. Foto: Meg T Noe



Norment's works include recordings, sculpture, drawing, performance, and scores for vocal ensembles as well as orchestras. Based in Norway since 2004, she represented Norway in the 56th Venice Art Biennale in 2015 with the large-scale three-part project Rapture.

A new publication will be released at the end of the exhibition, with texts by Nina Sun Eidsheim, Kathryn Yusoff and Camille Norment. In a space on the second floor, Norment has created a research situation with records and publications that create a context for the works in the exhibition and will host a series of events throughout the exhibition period.

On Friday 26 May at 19:30, Camille Norment will play a concert with her ensemble as part of Festspillene at Håkonshallen.

About the artist

Norment has master's degrees in both visual arts and interactive telecommunications from New York University, and she attended the Whitney Independent Study Program in 1994-95. Her work has recently been shown in solo exhibitions at the Dia Art Foundation in New York (2022-23), one of the most important exhibition spaces for contemporary art in the world; the David Logan Center for the Arts, University of Chicago (2019); the Oslo Kunstforening (2017); and Temple Bar Gallery and Studios, Dublin (2017). Since her solo presentation in the

Nordic Pavilion at the Venice Biennale 2015 she has participated in the Kochi-Muziris (2016), and the Montreal (2016), Lyon (2017), and Thailand (2018) biennials. She has produced several commissions for public spaces, amongst others for Henie Onstad Kunstsenter and the Norwegian Holocaust Center, both in Oslo.

Norment is also known as part of the Camille Norment Trio, where she performs together with Vegar Vårdal and Håvard Skaset. The group use electric guitar, glass armonica and Hardanger fiddle, amongst others. All these instruments have at various points in history been considered so powerful that they have been banned. In this way, the performances can be understood as rituals that connect different sensibilities separated in time. She has recently performed at institutions including The Armory, New York (with Craig Taborn, 2022, 2016); Munchmuseet, Oslo (with Vokalensemblen Oslo 14, 2021); Renaissance Society, University of Chicago (with Hamid Drake, 2019); and Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (with Craig Taborn, 2019), and twice with Ryuichi Sakamoto (Sapporo Arts Festival 2017, The Stone, New York, 2018).

Press package

[Press package with PDFs and hi-res images](#)

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The Festival Exhibition

The Festival Exhibition is Bergen Kunsthall's flagship exhibition, established in 1953. Each summer, we present a large-scale exhibition with new work by a Norwegian artist, in connection with the Bergen International Festival (Festspillene i Bergen). The exhibition is considered the most important solo presentation for a Norwegian artist in their home country and creates a national debate about the contemporary art scene. Recent Festival Exhibition artists include Gardar Eide Einarsson (2013), Ane Hjort Guttu (2015), Joar Nango (2020), Elisabeth Haarr (2021) and Lene Berg (2022).

About Bergen Kunsthall

Bergen Kunsthall is a centre for contemporary art and presents exhibitions and events by international artists. Landmark is our vibrant strand of live events that includes concerts and club nights. We organise a broad range of learning activities and debates that are open to everyone. Established initially as Bergens Kunstforening in 1838, the Kunsthall is based in an early functionalist building designed by the architect Ole Landmark in 1935, with gallery spaces, a café, and a bookshop. Bergen Kunsthall is supported by the Ministry of Culture, the City of Bergen, and Vestland County.

Opening

Thu 25 May 13:00 Free

The exhibition is opened by director Axel Wieder in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Sonja

Platform: Camille Norment

Sat 27 May 14:00 Free

Artist Talk

Platform: Nina Sun Eidsheim

and Gary Tomlinson

Sat 12 Aug 14:00 Free

Talks

Bergen Kunsthall

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