

Katalin Ladik.
Oooooooooo-pus
3.3.–10.9.23

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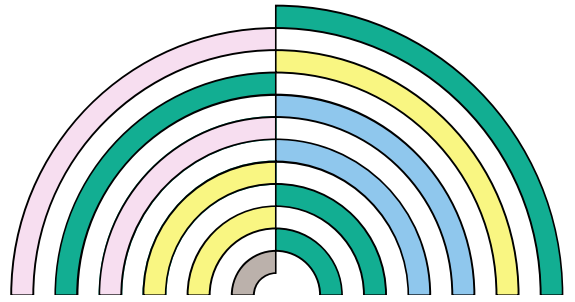


“If we are the most vulnerable in our poetry, we shall pour our whole bodies into it.” –
Katalin Ladik

“Oooooooooo-pus” at Haus der Kunst is the first survey exhibition in Germany of the work of Katalin Ladik (b. 1942, Novi Sad). Her radical approach to concrete and visual poetry, performance, and sound established her as a key figure in Central and Eastern European art. Ladik was born in 1942 in Novi Sad, a city in former Yugoslavia (now Serbia) that has long been a conduit between the Balkans and parts of Central and Eastern Europe. The multilingual demographics of Novi Sad – being majority Serbian and Hungarian – shaped Ladik’s visual approach to language and poetry.

Over the course of the 1960s, Ladik became an integral part of the Novi Sad literary and artistic avant-garde. She positioned herself at the intersection of various established and new performance traditions engaging in happenings, rituals, and photo-performance. Ladik, who was also successful as a film and stage actress, often played feminine ideals, draws on folkloric and mythological themes to challenge gender roles and female archetypes, using her body and voice as both instrument and medium.

For Ladik, the body engenders poetry. It is a site of self-representation that she has consistently explored in her performances from the 1960s onward. Her visual poems – collages that include sewing patterns, sheet music, and found objects such as circuit boards from radios and kitchen appliances – function also as musical scores. They explore connections between the voice and image while expanding language through phonetic experiments. The exhibition includes two new works commissioned for the



occasion: a sculptural score with corresponding sound and an installation that derives from Ladik's multimedia performance *Alice in Codeland*.

Language is at the heart of Katalin Ladik's practice. Her expansive approach to poetry materialises on the pages of her books, in her musical scores, and through concrete poems and visual collages. The latter are accompanied by sonic interpretations that show the artist's extraordinary vocal range. All of these works speak to Ladik's process of logopoiesis: the bringing into existence of new registers of language through acts of poetry, utterance, and visualisation. Or, to borrow the title of her 1976 album, a process of *Phonopoetica*, making poetry with voice

In the exhibition, a red thread leads from Ladik's sewing machine in the first room through the entire exhibition to her sculpture *Follow me into Mythology* (2017). Another conduit is the sound, which is central to Haus der Kunst's 2023 programme, and which forms the connective tissue of Ladik's multifaceted oeuvre. Each of the exhibition's three rooms has its own soundscape based on Ladik's visual and phonic poetry, making "Oooooooooo-pus" an exhibition that needs to be heard as much as to be seen. Followed by "Meredith Monk: Calling", this exhibition presents a new exhibition model at Haus der Kunst for displaying ground-breaking practices based on the audible.

Katalin Ladik.

Oooooooooo-pus

3 March – 10 September 23

Haus der Kunst | Nordgalerie

Prinzregentenstr. 1, 80538 Munich

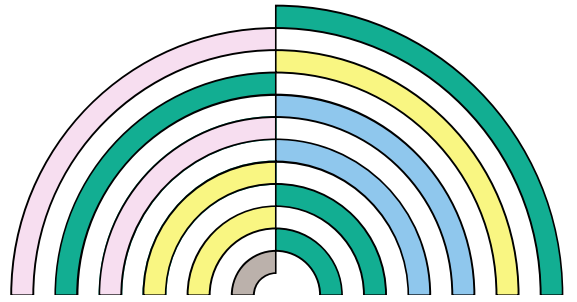
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Performance

As part of TUNE, Katalin Ladik will perform at Haus der Kunst on **14 and 15 July**. One performance will guide through the exhibition "Oooooooooo-pus" a second one will be dedicated to Ladik's collaboration with the composer Svetlana Maras̄.

Publication

A monograph will be launched accompanying the exhibition. Edited by Hendrik Folkerts, co-produced by Haus der Kunst München, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Ludwig Forum, Aachen and Muzeum Susch, Engadin, it will be published by Skira. The publication includes contributions by Pierre Bal-Blanc, Diedrich Diederichsen, Hendrik Folkerts, Irena Haiduk, Ana Janevski, Emese Kürti, Katalin Ladik, Quinn Latimer, Bhavisha Panchia, Dieter Roelstraete, Gloria Sutton, Sarah Johanna Theurer, Paolo Thorsen-Nagel, and Mónica de la Torre.



Curators

Sarah Johanna Theurer (Curator Haus der Kunst München) and Hendrik Folkerts (Curator of International Contemporary Art and Head of Exhibitions, Moderna Museet, Stockholm) with Manuela Hillmann (Curatorial Fellow Haus der Kunst München). The exhibition is co-organised by Haus der Kunst München, Ludwig Forum, Aachen, and Moderna Museet, Stockholm. “Katalin Ladik. Oooooooooo-pus” will travel to Aachen at the end of 2023 and to Stockholm in 2024.

Press Enquiries

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