

TRANSFORMATIONEN

KLANGSPUREN VON LASSE-MARC RIEK



Measurements with the help of an electrode

At eight locations, the sound artist Lasse-Marc Riek transforms the Palmengarten and Botanical Garden into a subtle soundscape with sound installations, his “transformations.” Within these sound installations, the artist, who is internationally active with exhibitions, concerts, teaching assignments, and projects, draws from a wealth of material: the inaudible world under water, the notorious ultrasonic sounds of bats as well as electrical voltages of plants, and much more are transformed so they speak, resound, and sing.

THE SONG OF THE PLANTS – NORTH AMERICA BED

The fact that certain frequencies and frequency ranges influence plant growth and that plants can therefore “hear” has been proven beyond doubt in research on the effect of music on plants. The question of whether plants can also become sound producers themselves is explored by Riek in this installation. To this end, two electrodes were attached to the soil and the leaves of the American skunk cabbage, Harvard’s century plant, and the needles of the Brewer’s spruce. With the help of the electrodes, the plants’ electronic impulses can be translated into melodious sounds and tone sequences and placed in new contexts. This process of acoustically transforming the plant impulses is called biodata sonification. The resulting musical diversity is a reflection of the inner life of the plants.