

DETAILED REPORT

Project: Organisation of the workshop and concert of the Icelandic artists from the S.L.Á.T.U.R. organisation

Dates of the activity: 26.-29.11.2015

Main applicant: Atrakt Art – Society for Contemporary Art and Culture, Bratislava

Partner: S.L.Á.T.U.R., Reykjavik

Description of implemented activity:

The main project goal was to organise a workshop and a concert evening with the members of Icelandic composers' collective S.L.Á.T.U.R. at the 16th NEXT festival for new and contemporary music in Bratislava, Slovakia.

S.L.Á.T.U.R. is an artistically obtrusive composer collective centered in Reykjavík, Iceland. Since 2005 its members have been working on various types of experiments. These include animated notation using computer graphics, interactivity, various experiments with sounds and tunings, performance art and the development of limited and isolated musical universes.

NEXT Festival is the leading annual showcase of new, innovative contemporary music and sound art in Slovakia, held annually in several venues in Bratislava. The festival is focused on inspiring and influential contemporary artistic personalities who are often both composers and performers of their music. During its rich history, many outstanding artists from all over the world performed at the festival, representing the whole spectrum of innovative music ranging from advanced composition, improvisation, live electro-acoustic music to audiovisual performances and sound installations.

6 member of the S.L.Á.T.U.R. (Torkell Atlason, Magnús Jensson, Páll Ivan Pálsson, Jesper Pedersen, Áki Ásgeirsson a Hlynur Adils Vilmarsson) arrived to Bratislava on Thursday, 26th November 2015. On the next day, Friday 27th at 13:00 the sound check started, after the special sound system and projection equipment had been set up.

S.L.Á.T.U.R. used in their performance self-made musical instruments in combination with traditional instruments and new technologies. It's also includes animations and generative video projection linked to the music processes. Thus the artists needed extensive technical preparations and sound check. On the same day in the evening, S.L.Á.T.U.R. had performance, playing almost 2-hour-long set. Here is a brief overview of pictures from the performance:



On 28th November at 10:30, the preparation of the workshop with the S.L.Á.T.U.R. started in the Space for Contemporary Culture A4 on Karpatska Street. They prepared special instruments, interactive projections, etc. From 13:00-14:00 we had a common lunch and discussed possibilities for future collaborations. The workshop started at 15:00. At the beginning, the S.L.Á.T.U.R. collective introduced themselves – the history and current activities in the context of Icelandic and international new music scenes. Gradually, there were introduced individual musicians: Torkell Atlason Magnus Jensson, Páll Ivan Pálsson, Jesper Pedersen, who were later joined by Aki Ásgeirsson, and Hlynur Adils Vilmarsson. Workshop participants got many interesting information about their individual musical activities and aesthetical views on contemporary music and multimedia art, accompanied by video examples and practical demonstrations. After the first part, the interactive section of

the workshop started, including individual examples with alternative musical instruments and interactions with the projection, which played a role of an animated graphic score containing instructions for players. Here is a brief overview of photos from the workshop:



In the evening, after 19:00 the concert program of the Next festival started, attended by S.L.Á.T.U.R. collective members as audience. During the evening, they also met important Slovak as well as foreign artists (Andrej Gál, Daniel Tóth, Jonáš Gruska). On November 29th, S.L.Á.T.U.R. left Bratislava.

Objectives:

The workshop/public presentations and concerts with Icelandic composers were two events that significantly contributed to the sharing of knowledge, skills and experience between the participants – young music professionals from Slovakia and Iceland. Through the presentations accompanied by hands-on practical examples covering the compositional methods and techniques, the Icelandic lecturers shared their aesthetic views and practical know-how in the area of innovative contemporary music with their Slovak counterparts and interested public. This fulfilled the aims of intercultural exchange based on personal connection and experience.

The final concerts and performances presented the new musical works by Icelandic artists to the wide audience in Slovakia. More than 250 visitors got the chance to experience the unique work of some of the most interesting contemporary Icelandic composers live at the NEXT Festival and thus enhanced their knowledge of the Icelandic culture.

Participants:

Áki Ásgeirsson, Hlynur Aðils Vilmarsson, Jesper Pedersen, Magnús Jensson, Páll Ivan Pálsson, Þorkell Atlason

Number of visitors of the events:

Workshop – 42 visitors

Concert – 252 visitors

Due to the maximum capacity of the selected performance space (A4 – Space for Contemporary Culture), the total number of the visitors was limited to 250 for safety reasons (the originally estimated number was 300).

Schedule:

26.11.

3.30-4.15 Transport to Reykjavík Keflavík / 5.40 Departure from Reykjavík Keflavík / 17.25 Arrival in Vienna Airport / 17.40-18.40 Transport to Bratislava / 19.00-20.00 Dinner

27.11.

11.30-12.30 Business Lunch / 13.00-17.00 Technical setup, sound check / 18.00-19.00 Dinner / 19.00 Festival start / 21.30-23.15 S.L.Á.T.U.R. Concerts and performances

28.11.

10.30-13.00 Workshop preparation, technical setup / 13.00-14.00 Business Lunch / 15.00-19.00 S.L.Á.T.U.R. Presentations and workshop / 19.00 Dinner

29.11

6.30 Departure: Transport to Vienna Airport / 9.30 Departure from Vienna / 15.15 Arrival in Reykjavík Keflavík / 16.00-16.45 Transport to Reykjavík City

Sustainability of the project:

We have cooperated with S.L.Á.T.U.R. organisation for the first time and we consider it a very successful collaboration with potential for future joined projects. For 2016, we are planning performances of Slovak artists in Reykjavík (dates and names to be announced later), applying for grant from the Fund for the Support of the Arts.

Media and social network coverage:

The events were promoted together with the whole festival and also with special posters and information on the website (<http://2015.nextfestival.sk/slatur/>).

In total, 4 press releases about the festival were sent to the media, 1 of which was exclusively covering the S.L.Á.T.U.R. cooperation (attached). The selected articles and published press releases are attached. The events were also covered by radio and TV stations.

The information about EEA Grant support was included in all the printed promotion materials, on the website as well as in the press releases sent out.