

Bernhard Gál



Austrian artist, composer and musicologist Bernhard Gál is equally at home in the fields of contemporary music, installation art and media art. As of now, Gál has created around 80 sound installations and intermedia art projects, combining sound, light, objects, as well as architectural concepts and video projections into multidimensional and prevalently site-specific art works. He composes for acoustic instruments and electroacoustic music. As a laptop musician, Gál has performed extensively on five continents, and worked with numerous musicians of the electronic and improvised music scenes. Another aspect of his work is interdisciplinary collaborations, e.g. with the choreographers/dancers Christian Aichinger and Akemi Takeya, the writer Róbert Gál, the visual artists Susana Gaudêncio and Mandy Morrison, the architect Yumi Kori, the film maker Emre Tuncer, as well as collaborative projects with fellow musicians such as Belma Bešlić-Gál, Kai Fagaschinski, Klaus Filip and Jennifer Walshe.

After studies at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna (Sound Engineering) and the University of Vienna (Musicology), and a year-long residency in New York City, he has focused on his artistic activities. Since 2006, Gál has been serving as the artistic director of 'shut up and listen!' - Transdisciplinary Festival for Music and Sound Art, in Vienna. Between 2006 and 2007 he taught sound art at the University of Arts in Berlin. From 2010-13 Gál held a research position at the Paris Lodron University Salzburg, in conjunction with the doctoral college 'Art and the Public'. In 2021, he completed a PhD at the University Mozarteum Salzburg, with a transdisciplinary thesis about sound installation art. His research activities include scholarly publications, conference participations, lectures and workshops, especially on sound art and contemporary music. Since autumn 2020 Gál holds a teaching position at the Certificate Program in Electroacoustic and Experimental Music (ELAK) at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna.

Gál's works have been presented internationally in concerts, exhibitions, public space installations, and radio portraits, and performed by ensembles such as Alter Ego (Rome), CFMW (Taipei), the Kammerensemble Neue Musik (Berlin), the Ensemble Noamnesia (Chicago), the OENM-Ensemble (Salzburg), and Phace (Vienna). He has been invited to international music and art festivals including Wien Modern, Vienna; MaerzMusik, Berlin; Sonambiente, Berlin; Donaueschinger Musiktage; Nuova Consonanza, Rome; MATA, New York; Soundfield, Chicago; Mutek, Montreal; Musicacoustica, Beijing; FILE, São Paulo. In recognition of his music and art projects, Gál has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Karl Hofer Prize Berlin 2001, an annual composer fellowship from the DAAD Artists in Berlin Programme 2003, the Austrian State Scholarship for Composition 2004 & 2016, and the Outstanding Artist Award for Music of the City of Vienna 2010. His work has been made available on various audio publications and documented with catalogue books and DVDs. In 2022 his dissertation HÖRORTE | KLANGRÄUME. Eine transdisziplinäre Topografie installativer Klangkunst was published by Wolke Verlag (sinefonia DIGITAL #3, wolke, Hofheim).