

Kunsthaus Bregenz

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Austria



Bregenz, September 2024

Invitation to the Press Conference

Dear media representatives,

We look forward to welcoming you to the press conference for the exhibition

KUB 2024.01

Tarek Atoui

12 | 10 | 2024 – 12 | 01 | 2025

on Thursday, October 10, 2024, 11 am

at Kunsthhaus Bregenz.

The exhibition can be visited before the press tour starting at 10 am.

Tarek Atoui will be present.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Martina Feurstein'.

Martina Feurstein

Head of Communications & Sponsoring

Kunsthhaus Bregenz

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Austria



KUB 2024.03 | Press Release

Tarek Atoui

12 | 10 | 2024 –

12 | 01 | 2025

Press Conference

Thursday, October 10, 2024, at 11 am

Opening

Friday, October 11, 2024, at 7 pm

Artist's Talk

Saturday, October 12, 2024, at 11 am

Performance series with Tarek Atoui

Thursday, October 24, 2024, from 6 to 8 pm,

Friday, October 25, 2024, from 6 to 7 pm,

Saturday, October 26, 2024, from 6 to 7 pm

Press photos available for download at

www.kunsthhaus-bregenz.at/en/press/tarek-atoui



Music and sound are an integral part of the artistic program of Kunsthhaus Bregenz. This is where, in 2015, Susan Philipsz played her arrangements of Hanns Eisler's score for the film *Night and Fog*, and in 2021 KUB proved to be the perfect venue for the art of Anri Sala. For Peter Zumthor, music is a major inspiration for his architectural ideas. For Expo 2000 in Hannover, Zumthor, a winner of the Pritzker award who had originally wanted to be a double bass player, designed the Swiss Pavilion as a walkable and tangible sound box.

Sound, acoustic experience, and musical performance play a central role in Tarek Atoui's work as well. Atoui is an artist and composer who works with a large number of musical devices. He experiments with electroacoustic sources and synthesizers, is involved in studies on soundscapes, and builds precisely developed musical instruments. Atoui's inspiration is also drawn from other cultures, from sharing insights with experts, artisans, and musicians from all over the world. His art reads like a new manifestation of the Arts and Crafts movement shifted to the realm of music and of acoustic perception. In the KUB exhibition, the instruments that are to be used in various compositions are spread out in the room, and visitors stroll through a landscape of sound sources laid out on the floor. They are urged to sensitize not only their sense of hearing but also their sense of space. Kunsthhaus Bregenz, with its spaciousness and acoustic echo effects, is particularly suited for this purpose.

Tarek Atoui, who emphasises mutuality and common understanding in art, rejects the traditional conventions of musical performance. At the same time, he believes in the inspirational and sensitizing quality of audio experiences. He is concerned not only with triggering aesthetic perception, but also with integrating social, political, geographical, and historical perspectives. For the specially designed accompanying educational program with workshops and creative projects, Atoui works closely together with the mediation team of the Kunsthhaus Bregenz. From 24 to 26 October a series of performances



featuring Tarek Atoui and international musicians will take place in the exhibition.

On the first floor the focus is on the tactile quality of the sound, vibration, and movement of the “wind instruments”. The *Wind Houses* link hearing, touch, and sight. These are listening and performance spaces which are at the same time huge musical instruments. Specifically for Bregenz, Atoui created *Windhouse #2*, a new version of his “wind gathering device”, which is activated by a powerful air current. As is the case with a flute, air is divided by a bevelled board, thus producing low sounds that resonate throughout the body and in the surrounding space. *Organ Within* is a hybrid sculptural installation that combines research into church pipe organs with the sonic experiences of deaf people. It consists of a network of tubes which connect a computer with an air blower, and various organ modules which interact with each other in such a way that their sounds constantly adapt to each other.

The work **on the second floor** is entitled *Waters’ Witness*. For this ongoing work Tarek Atoui collected the sounds of various port cities such as Athens, Abu Dhabi, Singapore, Beirut, Porto, Istanbul, and Sydney. With *Waters’ Witness* Tarek Atoui composes a soundscape that connects distinct realities geographically and symbolically. He thus creates space for new encounters, new exchanges, and above all new immaterial connections, comparable to a port that, by definition, is located at the interface of several spheres of influence and is a measure of a city’s growth and change.

The top floor is dedicated to rain. Atoui began his project *The Rain* during a research trip to South Korea. He studied traditional Korean musical instruments, working together closely with local artisans and scholars of traditional culture. He expanded his set of instruments by adding ceramic resonating bodies, porcelain, and hanji, a traditional Korean paper. The work was first presented at the 2023 Gwangju Biennale.

Following exhibitions in Seoul, New York, Singapore and Sydney, Tarek Atoui's work will be presented in Austria for the first time at Kunsthaus Bregenz.

Biography

Tarek Atoui



Tarek Atoui (b. 1980, Beirut) lives and works in Paris as a musician and sound artist. He studied contemporary and electronic music at the Conservatoire à Rayonnement Régional in Reims and was an artist-in-residence at the New Museum in New York. The musician participated in documenta 13 with a work inspired by Erkki Kurenniemi's DIMI synthesizers. As an artist, Atoui has exhibited at institutions such as the Art Sonje Center in Seoul, and S.M.A.K. in Ghent, both in 2024, the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia in Sydney in 2023, the Mudam Luxembourg, the Fundação de Serralves in Porto, The Contemporary Austin, and the FLAG Art Foundation in New York, all in 2022, as well as at the Fridericianum in Kassel and the Sharjah Art Foundation in 2020, and at the NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore in 2018. His works are part of several collections, notably the Tate Modern Collection in London, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Collection in New York, the Nouveau Musée de Monaco Collection, the Pinault Collection, the Kadist Collection, the French national collection, and the collection of the Sharjah Art Foundation.



Tarek Atoui's electroacoustic sound landscapes invite us to shed our listening habits and to experience our environment in a new way. At the heart of his artistic practice are collaboration and encounter. For Kunsthau Bregenz, Atoui will create a three-day performance series with international musicians who activate the exhibition: They will experiment musically with the instruments designed by Tarek Atoui as well as with their own instruments, including classical ones. Each evening is dedicated to one particular topic and brings into being a unique sound experience.

Thursday, 24 October, 6–8 pm | 1st floor

The “wind instruments” are newly developed instruments which can be equally experienced by hearing and deaf people. During the performance the musicians activate various instruments together. The Berlin-based composer Ziúr is composing an entirely new piece of music for KUB. With Tarek Atoui, Nicolas Becker, Laure Boer, Susanna Gartmayer, Mazen Kerbaj, Ziúr

Friday, 25 October, 6–7 pm | 2nd floor

For the ongoing project *Waters' Witness*, Tarek Atoui captures the sounds of the sea and the docks of port cities such as Athens, Abu Dhabi, Singapore, Beirut, and Porto. During this performance night at Kunsthau Bregenz, the musicians expand the installation by the sounds of their own instruments.

With Tarek Atoui, Nicolas Becker (Cristal Baschet, Synthesizer), Laure Boer (dan bau / Vietnamese bar zither), Gobi Drab (recorders), Susanna Gartmayer (bass clarinet), Mazen Kerbaj (trumpet, crackle synthesizer), DJ Sniff (turntable, electronics)

Saturday, 26 October, 6–7 pm

As a final highlight there will be a performance that encompasses all levels of the KUB building. The audience are invited to stroll through the floors and to experience a multi-voiced sound experience.

With Tarek Atoui, Nicolas Becker, Laure Boer, Gobi Drab, Susanna Gartmayer, Mazen Kerbaj, DJ Sniff

With the participation of

Tarek Atoui (b. 1980 in Lebanon, based in Paris)
Nicolas Becker (b. 1970 in France, based in Paris)
Laure Boer (b. 1983 in France, based in Berlin)
Gobi Drab (b. 1984 in Austria, based in Vienna)
Susanna Gartmayer (b. 1975 in Austria, based in Vienna)
Mazen Kerbaj (b. 1975 in Lebanon, based in Berlin)
DJ Sniff (b. 1978, based in Japan and in the U.S.)
Ziúr (based in Berlin)



The performances are included in the KUB ticket.
A 3-day pass (including a drink) for € 22

Available at the KUB ticket office and online:

shop.kunsthhaus-bregenz.at

KUB Billboards

Tarek Atoui

12 | 10 | 2024 – 12 | 01 | 2025



The KUB Billboards located on Seestraße, the most frequented street in Bregenz, are an integral part of Kunsthaus Bregenz's program, extending each KUB exhibition into public space. Tarek Atoui displays a series of unique motifs for the six billboards for the duration of his exhibition at Kunsthaus Bregenz.



Tarek Atoui's practice lies at the interface between art and music, culture and performance. At its heart are instruments that the artist has created jointly with instrument makers. Kunsthaus Bregenz is releasing a set of three records in a specially designed sleeve, to be accompanied by an artist's book. The LPs bring together sounds produced by a number of international musicians playing solos on the artist's instruments in different settings: in their respective studios, in Atoui's studio, and in the exhibition spaces of S.M.A.K. and KUB. These records not only capture the life of the instruments to make them audible to music lovers, but are also conceived as sample compilations that DJs, turntablists, and sound practitioners can sample and use. With this special role and in its unique form, the publication is intended not only for an art audience, but also for the wider music world, manifesting the wide range and the collaborative nature of Atoui's work.

Set: 3 LPs + Booklet

Sounds: Tarek Atoui, Jad Atoui, Nicolas Becker, Laure Boer, Gobi Drab, Susanna Gartmayer, Charbel Haber, Mazen Kerbaj, Eric La Casa, Boris Shershenkov, DJ Sniff, Ziúr
Edited by: Thomas D. Trummer, Kunsthaus Bregenz in collaboration with IAC Villeurbanne/Rhône-Alpes, S.M.A.K., Gent, and Pirelli HangarBicocca, Mailand
With texts by: Lucia Aspesi, Philippe Van Cauteren, and Thomas D. Trummer
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