

# KW

## Pause: Broken Sounds / Remote Music – Prepared Pianos from the Archivio Conz Collection

16–19 January 20

Opening: 15 January 20, 7 pm

In collaboration with Archivio Conz, KW Institute for Contemporary Art is pleased to present a selection of 24 artists' prepared pianos from Italian collector and patron Francesco Conz's collection. The remarkable assortment of historical art works by Ay-O, Jack Hirschman, Dorothy Iannone, Allan Kaprow, Nam June Paik, Carolee Schneemann, Roberts Watts, among many others, will create a sort of poetical environment for contemporary music and sound experiments.

The complete collection of more than 65 pianos was commissioned by Francesco Conz (1935–2010) as a continuation of John Cage's first artistic exploration of the medium at the end of the 1930s—the "prepared piano" is commonly understood as piano altered by placing objects between or on the strings. Throughout the years, a wide range of artists have manipulated the instrument—moving beyond the alteration of sound to fully rethink the structure and form of the piano as a privileged place for artistic creativity.

Pursuing Francesco Conz and the artists' exploration of the boundaries between art and music, the exhibition integrates and amplifies the visual dimension of

musical performances turning performers and audiences into protagonists of a creative sound happening.

The resulting visual environment—one that is at once architectural and evocative of sound—rethinks the exhibition space as a platform for further explorations into contemporary art and sound investigations. For five days, *Pause: Broken Sounds / Remote Music – Prepared Pianos from the Archivio Conz Collection* will be activated through a series of performances examining various approaches to sound by extending it through poetry, movement, and musical experimentation. The program will notably include American visual artist and musician Charlemagne Palestine's minimalist interpretations; an "instrumental conversation" recording session by Sky Walking; German musicians Phillip Sollmann (Efdemin) and Konrad Sprenger's esoteric approaches to music; a vocal exploration of sound by English poet Angharad Williams and a choreographed piece by Croatian visual artist Nina Kurtela.

Under the direction of Stefania Palumbo and chief curator Gigiotto Del Vecchio, the Archivio Conz is dedicated to presenting and preserving the archive and publishing project of Francesco Conz, a significant

patron and collector of Fluxus, Viennese Actionism, ZAJ, Concrete Poetry, and Lettrist works. First acquainted with the Viennese Actionism and New York avant-garde movements in the early 1970s, Conz grew personally engaged with the artists and their creative process. Turning his home in Asolo (IT) into an international meeting place for artists to live and work, he spent the next thirty years working with more than 120 artists, commissioning and producing the over 3000 works that constitute the Archivio Conz today.

Echoing the exhibition at KW, an ongoing project and collaboration between Archivio Conz and Filip Berg entitled COPY SHOP takes places at Edizioni Conz Raum in the front building of KW. Exploring the idea of multiples, combined with that of merchandising of popular music concerts, COPY SHOP presents works by George Brecht, Astrid Furnival, and John Giorno to translate pieces from the art archive into wearable multiples. Demonstrating one of the Fluxus movement's core notion, that art must be accessible and obtainable by all.

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### Opening hours

16 January 20, 11 am–9 pm  
17–19 January 20, 11 am–7 pm

### Admission

5 € / reduced 3 €

### Colophon

Curators: Gigiotto Del Vecchio, Stefania Palumbo  
Curatorial Assistance: Sabrina Herrmann,  
Mariamargherita Maceli  
Head of Production: Xavier Mazzarol, Claire Spilker  
Technical Management: Wilken Schade  
Sound Technician: Xavier Perrone  
Light Design: Eleonora Meoni  
Head of Installation, Media Technology: Markus Krieger

### Ongoing performances and concert

Nina Kurtela  
*24 moments*  
Ongoing performance  
Admission: included in exhibition ticket

Phillip Sollmann & Konrad Sprenger  
*Modular Organ System VII*  
Performance  
16 January 20, 6–9 pm  
Admission: included in exhibition ticket

Charlemagne Palestine  
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tastingg by Charlemagne Palestine*  
Concert  
17 January 20, 8.30 pm  
Admission: 15 € / reduced 12 €

Angharad Williams  
*Eraser*  
Performance  
18 January 20, 6 pm  
Admission: included in exhibition ticket

Sky Walking  
*Free Improvisation*  
Performance  
19 January 20, 4–7 pm  
Admission: included in exhibition ticket

Installation Team: KW + Archivio Conz Installation Team  
Registrar: Monika Grzymislawska  
Press and Communication: Karoline Köber  
Texts and Editing: Sabrina Herrmann,  
ART Communication  
Interns: Maria Eerma, Yuan Lu, Céline Prohaska-Schulz

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In collaboration with Archivio Conz

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