

A visualisation of voice at DRAWING NOW

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DRAWING NOW presents a series of live performances from a range of artists throughout its exhibition "DRAWING IN PROCESS". The performances aim to bring the public closer to the different processes involved in the creation of a drawing.

Today, it was the turn of Nick Laessing and Noga from Gowen Contemporary, marking their second performance together. Laessing began the performance by coating the surface of an unidentifiable musical instrument with a water, before adorning its centre with black paint. Next, it was the turn of Noga to sing into the instrument's connecting tube, creating a melodic accompaniment that alternated between consolation and solemnity, holding the audience captivated by the visualisation of voice achieved through the movement of the paint.

Following the performance, Laessings explains how he draws his inspiration from Margaret Watts Hughes, creator of the Ediphone, an instrument constructed of a hollow tube which opened into a large, bell-like chamber. "I read about this and tried for a long time to replicate the device that she made and, after a lot of work, this is what I came up with," the artist recounts. "What I found very interesting is that she was a very religious person and she learnt to sing biblical music and thought that she was channelling a divine force."

Noga explains the intimate nature of the performance: "It's really wonderful when the audience dares to come closer; it's part of the performance. As a singer, it really evokes the intimacy of the voice. It's a very intimate performance about breath and voice. When we first performed in Gowen Contemporary in Geneva, everyone came really near to us and we all found out what was happening together."

The conversation soon turns to the unidentifiable instrument and what could lie beneath its cloth... "It's just a metal cone, an extension of the tube" explains Laessings, much to the audience's dismay.

Nick Laessings is a British artist interested in unproven scientific phenomena, resulting in a practice in which he employs a variety of media. Laessings currently lives in Berlin. Noga is a singer, performer, and composer, living in Geneva, and is part of the musical improvisation duo ASAP2.

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