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International Press Service

Ressort: Kunst, Kultur und Musik

Where the Danube Becomes an Invitation to Listen

Wien Modern, 02.11.2026 [ENA]

“Donaurauschen & Flussgeflüster” brings an appealing proposition to Vienna’s ZOOM Kindermuseum: a river can become a starting point for artistic curiosity. Designed for children aged six to twelve, the exhibition includes contributions by Annea Lockwood, Pia Palme and other artists, connecting a young audience with contemporary approaches to sound through a cooperation with Wien Modern.

The title, suggesting the Danube’s rushing sounds and whispered conversations, offers a poetic framework. From a contemporary-music perspective, its attraction lies in the invitation to consider sound before deciding whether it qualifies as music. A river suggests movement, continuity and change: qualities that can also shape musical thinking without depending on melody or familiar instruments.

Lockwood and Palme’s inclusion gives this proposition an artistic focus. Rather than treating contemporary art as territory reserved for specialists, the programme places their contributions within an exhibition explicitly conceived for children. That choice is welcoming: it allows unfamiliar artistic names to enter a setting associated with discovery rather than examination.

Christian Ganzer curates the exhibition, with production by Jakob Krinzinger and scenography and graphics by Dorothea Brunialti. Digital development, credited to Mathias Müller, joins the broader collaboration behind the presentation. These complementary roles underline that the encounter is conceived as an exhibition, not simply a sequence of musical performances. Its most attractive promise is curiosity without intimidation. The subject offers children an accessible imaginative foothold, while the participating artists introduce possibilities beyond conventional concert listening. Without claiming how individual installations work or how visitors respond, the programme deserves recognition for this thoughtful meeting of artistic ambition

Bericht online lesen:
https://israel.en-a.eu/kunst_kultur_und_musik/where_the_danube_becomes_an_invitation_to_listen-94639/

Redaktion und Verantwortlichkeit:
V.i.S.d.P. und gem. § 6 MDStV: Dr. Nadejda Komendantova

Redaktioneller Programmdienst:
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