



Press Release | Berlin, March 16, 2021



### **Pierre Boulez Saal opens its doors to the public again**

Stephan von Huene's sound installation "Lexichaos" from March 25 to April 6 on view in the concert hall of the Barenboim-Said Akademie

**The Pierre Boulez Saal welcomes back audiences for the first time since the end of October: From March 25 to April 6, the sound installation "Lexichaos" by American artist Stephan von Huene (1932–2000) will be on view. The exhibition, curated by Marvin Altner, is open daily from 2 pm to 7 pm (6 pm on opening day) for a limited number of visitors per time slot—subject to a stable 7-day incidence and strict hygiene measures. Admission is free. Free timed tickets are available online or by calling +49 30 4799 7411. There will be no box office on site.**

Voices and alphabetic characters, wall panels, towers, and bells: over the course of ten days, "Lexichaos" takes over the Pierre Boulez Saal—this is the title of an expansive sound installation by American artist [Stephan von Huene](#). The confusion of languages—god's measure to scatter the peoples in the biblical story of the Tower of Babel—was written into von Huene's biography, who was raised in California, the son of German parents, and lived in Hamburg from 1980 to his death. In "Lexichaos", the audience moves between tablets of letters and three towers. The biblical text of the Tower of Babel is heard in Hebrew, ancient Greek, and German.

Von Huene's installation reveals a very current issue that is crucial to the Barenboim-Said Akademie: the verbal communication between people of different national and cultural backgrounds. The artist's work treats language not only in terms of its symbols and sounds—it is also open to a metaphorical interpretation. In his own words: "Between languages, there is not only the meaning of words, the translation, there are entire worldviews."

Von Huene is one of the most important artists of the second half of the 20th century. Since the 1960s, he explored the totality of the arts and combined them with the new possibilities of the electronic media of his time. Using electronics, kinetics, sound, and drawn mind maps, he continuously expanded the possibilities of art. "Lexichaos" was first shown in the summer of 1990 at the Hamburger Kunsthalle and is now housed at the Hermann von Helmholtz Center for Cultural Techniques at Berlin's Humboldt University. The Center has generously loaned the installation to the Barenboim-Said Akademie for this exhibition.

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[Lexichaos 1](#) | Foto: © Petra Kipphoff von Huene  
[Lexichaos 2](#) | Foto: © Petra Kipphoff von Huene

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Journalists will have the opportunity to visit the exhibition on March 24.  
Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time.

### **PRESS CONTACT**

Dr. Martin Andris  
[press@boulezsaal.de](mailto:press@boulezsaal.de)

Tel +49 30 2096 717 25  
Mobil +49 174 177 67 77

Pierre Boulez Saal  
Barenboim-Said Akademie gGmbH  
Französische Straße 33d  
10117 Berlin

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*10117 Berlin*

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