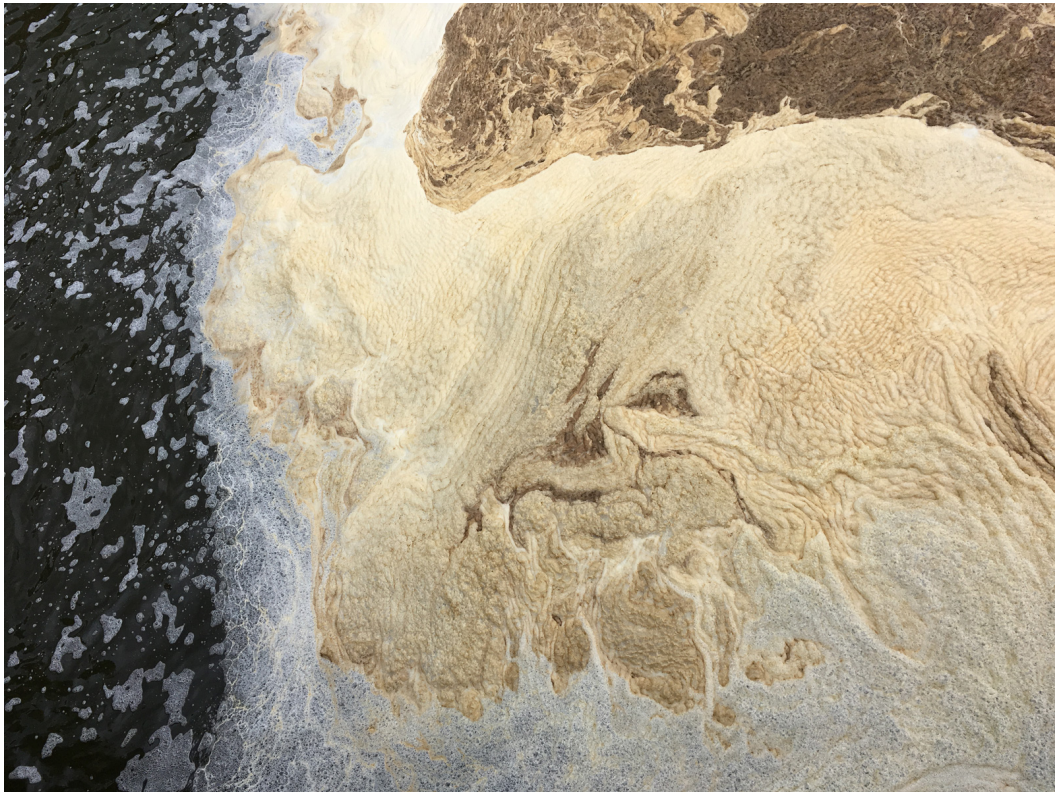


Press Release

GAK Gesellschaft für Aktuelle Kunst, Bremen

10.07.2020



GAK Projekte:
Bradley Davies
tidal

Solo exhibition in GAK Project Space, curated by Regina Barunke
Duration: 11.07.–30.08.2020

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Exhibition

GAK Projekte:

Bradley Davies

tidal

11.07.–19.04.2020

A wet cellar. Its walls are covered with proliferating stains and discoloration. They move up from the floor and condense into dark and unsightly accumulations in the corners of the room. The single small window directs the view to the Weser, which flows directly past the walls and rises and falls with the tides. The assumption is obvious that water percolated into the room due to a longer period of moisture penetration of the masonry and that this is also the reason for the water damage. Only a few things are irritating: The traces of moisture are clearly visible on the walls, but the smell and the clammy feeling of wetness are missing. And despite the closed window, a sound of water can be heard.

In his work “tidal”, Bradley Davies deals with the basement of GAK and its proximity to water as well as with the element of water itself. At the same time, he involves the viewer in a kind of deception of eye and ear. For neither is the cellar damp, nor is there an immediate danger of water penetrating and flooding the room. Instead, Davies covers the walls with fine chalk and charcoal drawings in trompe-l’œil technique and faithfully reproduces the typical manifestations of water damage. The fact that he uses chalk and charcoal for his wall paintings is also due to the fact that both materials absorb moisture: Charcoal is ideal for keeping damp rooms dry, chalk binds sweat. In this way, only his fine wall covering of chalk and charcoal keeps the pores of the room closed.

Amidst the mural paintings, sounds of water can be heard, and the complexity and strangeness of a visible and invisible world is revealed. They show that water is by nature multifaceted and predisposed to material change. This tendency to shift forms may not only worry the viewer but also some of the protocols used for the scientific research and geopolitical organization of water. Using contact microphones and highly sensitive underwater microphones (hydrophones), Davies records singular sounds in the tradition of field recording, and reassembles them as a sound collage. The recordings were made in and around Bremen, as well as in Cologne and Tangier. “Doing the sound recordings is a way for me to do similar to what the stain, damp or mould would do, to bring the outside inside. Also, I have been mostly recording places I and others maybe wouldn’t normally get to see, or even using hydrophones and contact microphones to tap into worlds that are partially invisible to us”, the artist says. With the knowledge of those places that Davies reveals in the exhibition and in the online archive of radio aporee, listening to the water creates new, inner images that connect with the visible traces on the walls and tell past and future stories.

40 J.G AK

GAK-Projekte is an exhibition series on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the GAK Gesellschaft für Aktuelle Kunst.

With the generous support of
Beate + Hartmut Schaefers Stiftung

With the following links you can listen to Bradley Davies' field recordings:

Hastedter Osterdeich 230, 28207 Bremen, Germany / Hydroelectric power plant
<https://aporee.org/maps/work/?loc=50168>

Hastedter Osterdeich 224, 28207 Bremen, Germany / High pressure water outlet at the hydroelectric power plant.
<https://aporee.org/maps/work/?loc=50171>

Hastedter Osterdeich 230, 28207 Bremen, Germany / Metal enclosure
<https://aporee.org/maps/work/?loc=50174>

Konsul-Smidt-Straße 90, 28217 Bremen, Germany / Echoey tunnel
<https://aporee.org/maps/work/?loc=50173>

Konsul-Smidt-Straße 8T, 28217 Bremen, Germany / Jangling masts
<https://aporee.org/maps/work/?loc=50172>

Unnamed Road, 28777 Bremen, Germany / Valentin bunker, birds
<https://aporee.org/maps/work/?loc=50175>

Unnamed Road, 28777 Bremen, Germany / Dripping water
<https://aporee.org/maps/work/?loc=50176>

Sürther Leinpfad, 50997 Köln, Germany / The humming engine of a barge passing.
<https://aporee.org/maps/work/?loc=50177>

Unnamed Road, 51063 Köln, Germany / Hydrophone recording barge boat docking.
<https://aporee.org/maps/?loc=47982&m=satellite>

Route des Grottes d'Hercule, Tanger, Marocco / Caves of Hercules
<https://aporee.org/maps/work/?loc=50178>

168-244 Blvd. Mohamed VI, Tanger, Marocco / البلدي الشاطئ (Plage municipale)
<https://aporee.org/maps/work/?loc=50179>

40 J.G AK

About the artist

Bradley Davies

born 1990 in London, lives in Cologne

Education

2014–2017	Städelschule, Hochschule für Bildende Künste, Frankfurt
2009–2012	Glasgow School of Art
2008	BTEC City College Brighton & Hove

Residencies and grants (selection)

2018	Studio Grant, Kölischer Kunstverein, Cologne
2017	Künstlerhilfe Frankfurt e.V. scholarship (Peter Gorschlüter)
2016	Landwirtschaftliche Rentenbank-Price, Städelschule

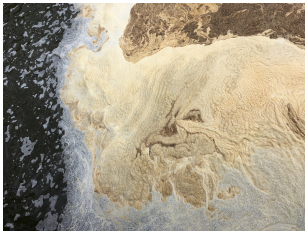
Solo exhibitions (selection)

2020	tidal, GAK Projekte, Bremen
2019	Broadley Speaking, Neue Alte Brücke, Frankfurt

Group exhibitions (selection)

2019	Get Some Head Space, Ralph's, Amsterdam Köln um Halb Acht, Temporary Gallery, Cologne
2018	Nothing will be as before, Tanya Leighton, Berlin Keeping up appearances, Neuer Essener Kunstverein, Essen Human Interest, Jochen Hempel, Berlin
2017	Souvenir, Alto Refugio, La Paternal, Buenos Aires After the fact. Propaganda 2001 – 2017, Lenbachhaus, Munich Stars, 12 Star Gallery at Europe House, London
2016	This is just a hall, One Foot in Door, Frankfurt
2015	Stuffing, Johan, Frankfurt
2014	Romantic Possibilities In Modern Flats, 42 Leven St, Glasgow
2013	Walk On: From Richard Long to Janet Cardiff – 40 Years of Art Walking, Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art, Sunderland, The Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery, Plymouth
2012	Hot Air, Studio 41, Glasgow

Press Images
GAK Gesellschaft für Aktuelle Kunst, Bremen
10.07.2020



GAK_20Davies.jpg

Bradley Davies, 2020.



GAK_20Davies_VonDenDriesch_01.jpg

All:
Bradley Davies
tidal, 2020
Installation: Wall painting; chalk, carbon,
pigments
Field Recordings; 21:23 min, loop
Photos: Franziska von den Driesch



GAK_20Davies_VonDenDriesch_02.jpg



GAK_20Davies_VonDenDriesch_03.jpg



GAK_20Davies_VonDenDriesch_04.jpg

40 J.G
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GAK_20Davies_VonDenDriesch_05.jpg

For receiving printable images, please contact us.