

Vernissage

**“INFINITE SCREEN – The Babel Tower”
AROTIN & SERGHEI**

**Wednesday, 21 September 2016, 8.00 pm
Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna**

with

Sabine Haag, General Director of the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna
Kaspar Mühlemann Hartl, curator and director of museum in progress
Gerfried Stocker, artistic director of Ars Electronica

in the presence of the artists AROTIN & SERGHEI

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**“INFINITE SCREEN – The Babel Tower” and limited special edition
AROTIN & SERGHEI**

A project by museum in progress (www.mip.at) in cooperation with Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna, Ars Electronica and Artcurial, supported by Espace Muraille, TRSZ and Bildrecht. Video and sound technology: Rezac High Power Projection. Curator: Kaspar Mühlemann Hartl.

Daily from dusk until midnight

The installation “INFINITE SCREEN – The Babel Tower” by AROTIN & SERGHEI will be presented from 22 September until 19 October 2016 as a large-scale image projection (1200 sq m) on the main façade of the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna to mark the 125th anniversary of the museum. Hereby one of its most famous pictures, “The Tower of Babel” by Pieter Brueghel the Elder, is transformed into a rotating structure of light cells in continuous mutation with emerging details from masterpieces of the KHM collection. AROTIN & SERGHEI composed a sound installation to accompany the endless circular movement. It contains various sounds and electronically manipulated themes from Bach, Wagner and Schubert’s later works and “Unfinished Symphony”, played on the piano by the famous pianist Mikahil Rudy and by Alexander Arotin. Furthermore the artists included text fragments from Homer, Dante, Karl Kraus, Beckett and Wittgenstein, from the Mahabharata and from navigation systems. The circular dynamic as a defining element in Vienna, from waltzes and the Giant Ferris Wheel to the Ringstrasse, forms a basic structure for the endless movement of image and sound in the “INFINITE SCREEN – The Babel Tower”. The project was initiated by museum in progress under the direction of the curator Kaspar Mühlemann Hartl.

Corresponding to the installation at the Kunsthistorisches Museum the exhibition “LIGHT CELLS – intermedial painting” will be shown at the auction house Artcurial from 22 September until 19 October 2016. In it AROTIN & SERGHEI will present art works which are related to the installation at KHM.

Vernissage: 21 September 2016, 6 pm, Rudolfsplatz 3, 1010 Vienna, with Caroline Messensee (director Artcurial Austria), Kaspar Mühlemann Hartl (curator) and Franz Pichorner (Deputy General Director of the Kunsthistorisches Museum).

The installation “INFINITE SCREEN” by AROTIN & SERGHEI is a work in progress, which has been realized in several forms, each in a different context. The first part of INFINITE SCREEN was shown in the Great Hall of the Vienna Konzerthaus in 2013 in cooperation with museum in progress and Klangforum Wien. For the premiere of Aureliano Cattaneo’s Parole di settembre I–III the artists designed a projection shown on a 12 x 12 metre screen. Animated in real time to accompany the music, the installation looked at perspective and the illusionary painting of the early Italian Renaissance and at Andrea Mantegna in particular, to whom the evening was dedicated. His study of perspective was shown in the projection in the form of assembled pictorial allusions. At the same time, the installation reacted sensitively to the music. Following its great success, the project was invited in 2015 to the Art Biennale in Venice, where it was presented again to open the music programme. In 2014 the artists showed the second part of INFINITE SCREEN at the Ars Electronica in the Brucknerhaus Linz, this time in connection with Wittgenstein’s philosophy and theory of perception. The following year and in 2016 the artists again performed at the Ars Electronica, experimenting with extremely high-resolution images in the Deep Space exhibition room, which is equipped with high-performance projectors, resulting in the breath-taking perfection of the technological art project “White Point”.

As a preliminary to the installation at the Kunsthistorisches Museum and in reference to Bruegel's Tower of Babel the artists created a special edition of twelve numbered and signed unique works called "Vinyl-Sound-Pictures" – coloured prints on translucent vinyl discs coated with 24-carat gold leaf. The edition is presented in a designer box and can be hung on the wall or played on a record player. The nine-minute composition combines the elements of water and fire, human and mechanical voices and the sound of Bach's The Art of Fugue.

Special edition: <http://www.mip.at/shop/vinyl-klang-bilder>

Project website: <http://www.mip.at/creations/infinite-screen-der-turm-von-babel>

AROTIN & SERGHEI

Alexander Arotin grew up in Vienna and Paris. He studied piano, composition and music theory at the University of Music in Vienna and art, set design and film at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna.

Serghei Victor studied history, journalism, art, dance, fashion and design in Moscow, Montpellier and the University of Vienna.

AROTIN & SERGHEI have worked together since 1994 and have published their installations and pictures since 2010 as a duo. They are creating art works in experimentation with future technologies and in the development of new art concepts and forms of visualisation for exhibition spaces and musical theatre. Their intensive investigation of light and light cells manifests itself in many ways in different media. The two artists live and work in Berlin, Vienna and southern France. Their creations have been presented for example at TEFAF Maastricht, Ars Electronica and the Venice Biennale.

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