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Lina Lapelytė: Study of Slope

Saturday 16 November 2024
3pm, Huddersfield Town Hall

John Butcher saxophone
Angharad Davies violin
Rhodri Davies harp
Lina Lapelytė violin / keyboard
Hampus Lindwall organs

Evaldas Alekna musical assistant
Eglė Čekanavičiūtė (Gowns for Sports) costume design
Gabrielė Golubovičiūtė production manager

Co-producers: Lafayette Anticipations Foundation, Paris;
Theatre Rampe, Stuttgart; Lillith performance studio, Malmö

Choir:
Evaldas Alekna voice
Adris Asghar voice
Nabeel Hafeez voice
Tom Hawkins voice
Shun Jieye voice
Hongxi Li voice
Usma Mahmood voice
Sol Thomanek Tollman voice

Lina Lapelytė (Lithuania, 1984)

Study of Slope (2022) 45' **UK Premiere**

[Texts: *Living in a Land* by Sean Ashton (extracts)]

By overturning the dominant codes of the Western musical tradition that exclude those who sing off-key, *Study of Slope* brings together

non-professional performers who do not have a “musical ear”.

Taking the voice as a starting point from which to rethink conventions and how they affect the place of the individual in the community, this performance invites us to shift and renew our perspectives. It celebrates polyphony and individual expression questioning the ways in which we can constitute a collective voice.

The words sung by the performers are taken from Sean Ashton’s novel *Living in a Land*, which reflects on what defines an individual. In this fictional memoir written in sentences composed in the negative, the narrator describes what he has never done, no longer does, or will never do – activities and thoughts that call upon our own experiences.

Born in Kaunas, Lithuania and based between Vilnius and London, **Lina Lapelytė** is known for a performance-based practice, rooted in music and flirting with pop culture, gender stereotypes and nostalgia. Her works engage trained and untrained performers, often in an act of singing through a wide range of genres such as mainstream music and opera. Singing takes the form of a collective and affective event that questions vulnerability and silencing.

In 2019, her work *Sun & Sea (Marina)*, made together with Vaiva Grainytė and Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė and curated by Lucia Pietroiusti, won the Golden Lion award at the Venice Biennale. In 2020, Lapelytė received the national art and culture prize in Lithuania.

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