

# The Sound & Icon Machine

## Maria und Neda Ploskow

Light and sound still reach people even when they close their eyes and turn away. In this way, the audiovisual installations by The Sound & Icon Machine can be experienced as a kind of enveloping, immediate touch and invitation. The moving drawings of the light projections seduce the eye, the sounds tickle the ear, body and mind are set in motion by visual and acoustic stimulation - in a motion that, following the loop, points to infinity in the here and now.

Since the Ploskow sisters joined forces in 2002 with their respective professions and passions, computer-based and space-related works have emerged that unleash synaesthetic synergies. Unlike in the early days of abstract art, here one medium does not follow the other exclusively. Building on a basic idea, music and drawing evolve in the digital exchange between Hamburg and Munich during a gradual process.

Maria's drawings are computer animations made up of clearly defined lines and shapes in black and white, of light and shadow. Neda's music is likewise minimalist, driving, often danceable as in *Serpentine* (2021), sometimes with field recordings as in *Black Water* (2019). The latter installation was developed for a disused swimming pool. Starting from the former function and atmosphere of the place, white structures that stylize tiles and the moving surface of water are laid over the empty pool on a dark background, as if flashing from artificial light. The tonal level oscillates between waves, wind and beats and takes the dreamer out to sea.

Here, as in all works by The Sound & Icon Machine, further levels of perception and meaning unfold between music and drawing, between rhythm and black-and-white. Sound and icon challenge each other and the recipient, refer to each other, mutually emphasize what is hidden and are for this very reason mysterious. Nothing is fixed, everything is fluid. Consequently, the technical facilities remain in the dark. The material of this art should be: light drawing, sound, space. This is what the recipient dives into. With his body, with his senses he becomes the carrier and generator of a fleeting yet eternal moment.

*Cora Waschke, 2022*