



Xing  
presents

**thursday 26 october 10 pm**

**PAK YAN LAU**  
***Random Pareidolia***

sound performance  
**Blank Sounds Institute of Listening**

**Raum**  
Via Ca' Selvatica 4/d Bologna

**Thursday 26 october 2023** at 10pm **Xing** presents at **Raum**, Bologna, ***Random Pareidolia***, sound performance by **Pak Yan Lau**, an artist extremely sensible to the materic suggestions of sound, blending acoustic, electro-acoustic and electronic approaches. The project is the first event of the **BLANK SOUNDS Institute of Listening**.

**BLANK SOUNDS Institute of Listening** is a new per-formative form that focuses on listening as a practice, experience and resource crossing sound, space and movement. It is one of the Nomadic Institutes conceived by Xing in the post-pandemic era in dialogue with important protagonists of the contemporary art scene, with the aim of creating moments of reflection, study, production and transfer of innovative practices in the field of Live Arts.

***Random Pareidolia*** is a solo concert-performance of Pak Yan Lau, a sound artist who has developed over the last decade her own singular sonic universe from prepared pianos, toy pianos, synths, electronics and various sound objects. Over a three-day period of study and preparation, Pak Yan Lau has been invited by Xing to explore Raum's space in relation to its potential towards radical modes of perception and listening. The residence is aimed at researching, developing and creating different ways of improvising a live concert in a dark situation, where in an uncertain environment the senses of the musician and the audience are challenged. The space will be filled with near darkness. Musical and sound objects will be filtered by electronics to navigate the acoustics in the room.

*Pareidolia* is the tendency for perception to impose a meaningful interpretation on a nebulous stimulus, usually visual, but it can also be audible, so that one sees an object, pattern or meaning where there is none, or hear music in random noises. Thus certain questions arise when one can't see clearly. Does the act of listening alter? Is our hearing sharper, more focussed, more engaged? Does one feel uncomfortable? Or does it induce a sleep/dream like state? Shall one see and hear things that are actually not really there? Following the experiences made over the years at Raum with *Hypnomachia* (music that unfolds over the course of a whole night, in symbiosis with the secret rhythm of the slips in attention, between wakefulness and sleep), Pak Yan Lau reinterprets the potential of perceptive expansion, opting for light deprivation.

**Pak Yan Lau**, born in Belgium with roots from Hong Kong, is a sound artist, improviser, musician and composer, with a penchant for sound and electro-acoustic experimentation. After her classical piano studies in Antwerp and Porto, she moved to Brussels, where she is now a well-known figure in the experimental scene. Her music ranges from minimal sound explorations and abstract texturing (Iauroshilau with Yuko Oshima and Audrey Lauro), to free jazz improv (Mette Rasmussen, Chris Corsano) to electro-groove (Going - trio with Giovanni Di Domenico and João Lobo), till crossmedia projects with photographers (the duos *Stills*). Currently she is also active as composer (latest release: *Bakunawa*, an ensemble piece for prepared harp, gong rods, toy piano's and minimal electronics) and creating sound-installations involving site specific places such as *Sogni Liquididi* music for underwater in public swimming pools, and *(t)ears* : 22 handblown glass tears hanged in a space, within every glass tear a system of hydrophones or independent passive speakers, functioning like a glassy acousmonium. As a soloist, she has released a trilogy (*Books*), where she plays different instrumentations, exploring the world of synthesizers-samplers-electronics, then the world of harmonics and metallic basses of various toy pianos, and finally the interior of a prepared grand piano, transforming its conventional sound into an enveloping tense sound weave. Thanks to her encounter with Japanese tubist Daysuke Takaoka, she has developed a relationship with Japan and their artists over the past 10 years. Being active in different fields she has collaborated with musicians such as Chris Corsano, Akira Sakata, Darin Gray, Tatsuhisa Yamamoto, Tetuzi Akiyama, Mette Rasmussen, Rie Nakajima, Toshimaru Nakamura, Susana Santos Silva, Manuel Mota, Lynn Cassiers, João Lobo, Giovanni Di Domenico, Norberto Lobo, Manja Ristic, Lionel Malric, Audrey Chen, Clara Levy and many more. She works with dance (a.o. DERAILED / Benjamin Vandewalle) and shadow theatre (The Fabulous Sisters Choi), creates soundtracks for short movies (FENWICK) and radio documentaries (Nora & Violeta - Chloé Despax/ Anaïs Carton) and has released different albums on Holidays Records, el NEGOCITO records, Silent Water, Cortizona, By the Bluest of Seas. She has toured different festivals and venues in Europe, UK, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Japan.

[www.pakyanlau.com](http://www.pakyanlau.com) [pakyanlau.bandcamp.com](http://pakyanlau.bandcamp.com)

Partners: Regione Emilia-Romagna, Comune di Bologna. Media Partners: Edizioni Zero, ATPdiary, NEU Radio.

#### **Xing/Raum info**

Via Ca' Selvatica 4/d - Bologna - I

[info@xing.it](mailto:info@xing.it)

[www.xing.it](http://www.xing.it)

[facebook.com/xing.it](https://facebook.com/xing.it) [twitter.com/xing\\_italy](https://twitter.com/xing_italy) [instagram.com/xing.it](https://instagram.com/xing.it) [soundcloud.com/xing-records](https://soundcloud.com/xing-records)

XING

Via Ca' Selvatica 4/d - 40123 Bologna

[www.xing.it](http://www.xing.it) [info@xing.it](mailto:info@xing.it)



**Access:**

pay as you wish

**Press kit**

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/g67y5isy1tgvcpi5ct1t/h?rlkey=ezumul5qz636ot3yzdfgyy0y4&dl=0>

**Xing press**

mob +39.339.1503608 press@xing.it