

# JAN DOMS - CASIO

animation ✕ graphic art ✕ architecture

residency concept in the context of mushtopia

 **A-I-R** WSCHODNIA RESIDENCY ŁÓDŹ

ART ACADEMY ŁÓDŹ | BOOK ART MUSEUM ŁÓDŹ | MARCH - APRIL 2019



# DOMS CASIO

In 1978 Jan Doms started a collaboration with Ernst Bonis. He is one of the founding fathers in The Netherlands of the Music & Technology department at the HKU University of the Arts Utrecht. At that time they did all sorts of experiments with the combination of spring steel and electronics.

For one of the projects Ernst Bonis built especially for Jan Doms a so-called casio, which was equipped with two light cells with which the rhythm and pitch could be influenced (arranged).

The first time Jan Doms performed with the casio solo was at the opening of one of the first editions of the famous Stranger than Paranoia Festival in the early nineties, organized by composer and saxophonist Paul van Kemenade.

Especially for the residency in Galeria Wschodnia, where Jan Doms is going to create an animation film in combination with graphic art and architectural models, Ernst Bonis is building a new Casio. He has called this device the Doms'Casio. In this way Doms can create his own film music, both live and edited in the animation film.

# electronic music





# DOMS ANIMATION

Motion is the central theme to Jan Doms' work under the motto: **'Nature is always in motion, total rest means certain death'**.

In the period 2012 - 2016 various animation films were produced from the series of so-called glass archi-sculptures by Jan Doms in Bulgaria and Mallorca (ES). The Bulgarian animation film maker Aspa Petrov made the settings of the recordings made by Jan Doms and the Bulgarian architect Olga Doreva with whom he collaborated during the construction and dismantling of these large-scale glass structures.

The lino cuts and the architectural structures that Jan Doms will manufacture form the two and three dimensional bases for the intended animation film. The approach will be also inspired by the abstract animation films of the German film pioneer Walter Ruttmann (1878 - 1941), entitled Opus I to Opus IV.

By creating this animation film it can also be shown worldwide that Lodz, its amazing textile history and its position as the cradle of the Polish and international avant-garde, are still alive.

That the pioneering mentality is still lively present is especially also true for Galeria Wschodnia and the artists who have been implementing the dynamic avant-garde program for over thirty years.

The cities of Tilburg (NL) and Gyumri (AM) were also formed by the textile industry and played (play) a role in the avant-garde, the forefront of art. Through the animated film, these three cities are connected at artistic level.

# animation film





# DOMS GRAPHIC ART

In addition to constructive sculpting Jan Doms also participated in graphic arts at the Art Academie Tilburg. That is why a substantial part of his oeuvre also consists of drawings and graphic prints, such as etching and lino cuts. Based on lino cuts, Jan Doms recently produced a series of abstract blind prints entitled 'intercepted light'. In line with this series, he will continue to work during the residency, whether or not in combination with color.

One of the prints is published in the comprehensive book Abstract Art, compiled by the Dutch collector of abstract art Jan Verhoeven (© 2018 Yellow Fellow).

## lino cut



# BOOK ART MUSEUM

The Book Art Museum in Lodz belongs to the so-called living museums where not only the collection can be viewed. Printing can also be done using various printing techniques for which the necessary equipment can be used. Numerous presses entrusted to the care of the museum are kept in working order for that purpose and, of course, for preservation for future generations.

For the blind printing based on lino cut, Jan Doms would like to cooperate with the Book Art Museum in the context of CASIO.

# collaboration



# DOMS ARCHITECTURE



Doms' home town Tilburg (NL), the city of Gyumri (AM) and Lodz are cities whose existence has been determined by the rise and fall of the textile industry. The large-scale brickwork buildings from that time have in common the typical column structure - the oldest made out of wood and the later ones made out of steel - and the application of shed roofs focused on the northern light.

For some of his architectural designs Jan Doms created scale models. In Galeria Wschodnia he will produce a spatial structure (model) based on the characteristics of the industrial buildings for the textile industry.

The structures, the lino cuts, the use of light and the application of electronics, form the basis for the production of the animation film.

In this way the film becomes a document that establishes a historical and current connection between Tilburg, Gyumri and Lodz, all of which have also played an important role in respectively the Dutch, Armenian and Polish (international) avant-garde.

urban structures



# DOMS' MUSHTOPIA

The project Mushtopia includes the following components:

**Prelude Mushtopia** CASIO in Galeria Wschodnia Lodz -  
Art Academy Lodz

A 1: **Mushtopia Laboratory for Research and Design** at the  
Emili Aregak Center in Gyumri (next to the Mush district)

A 2: **Jan Doms - Mushtopia** in ACCEA (Armenian Center for  
Contemporary Experimental Art Yerevan

A 3: **Mushtopia Festival** in the Mush district, Gyumri

B 1: Documentary **publication Mushtopia**

B 2: Documentary **film Mushtopia**

urban structures



# GALERIA WSCHODNIA

Both Galeria Wschodnia in Lodz and ACCEA (Armenian Center for Contemporary Experimental Art) in Yerevan are among the scarce platforms where the experiment in the arts is held, all in the perspective of the frontiers in the arts.

The artistic path of Jan Doms is inspired by the Russian and the international avant-garde, where the cross-pollination between the different art disciplines is alive, such as between visual arts, performing arts, literature and architecture and urbanism.

With CASIO in the context of MUSHTOPIA, a new adventure is added at the forefront of the arts.

experimental art



The image shows a modern building with a large glass facade on the left and a colorful geometric design on the right. The building is situated on a grassy area with a paved path in the foreground. The sky is overcast.

# ART ACADEMY

The Mushtopia Laboratory for Research and Design is open to students and young professionals who are interested in developing future-oriented ideas for the never-finished Mush district in the northern part of the city of Gyumri. This northern part of the city was in development at that time to relocate the people who lost their homes during the earthquake of 1988.

In 2018, students from the Fontys University Tilburg (NL) - Art and Architecture department, have taken the first experimental steps in developing ideas for Mush.

The plan is to organize a special Mushtopia research and design program with students from the Art Academy Lodz during the residency of Jan Doms.

# mushtopia lab



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## EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The 'CASIO residency' of Jan Doms in Lodz can be considered as the prelude to his more comprehensive 'MUSHTOPIA residency' in Yerevan and Gyumri, Armenia.

The essence of both work periods is that the autonomous work of Jan Doms on the boundaries of arts and architecture and urbanism is directly related to his activities as an inspirator and stimulator of young generations who are at the beginning of their artistic and creative career.