

Between Music

Portfolio



Artistic exploration of water since 2004

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Art can lead us beyond what we think we know

The water on our planet calls for attention.

For nearly two decades, Between Music has explored this crucial element through the language of art in interdisciplinary collaboration with scientists, artists, engineers, physicians, craftsmen and many more - compelled by the same passion and urge to seek beyond assumptions.

Around us and within us, when there is too much or too little, water is a vital part of all life on earth. Yet, as human societies have developed a need to control it, our awareness and deeply rooted connection to the water have become increasingly alienated. We tend to forget that we are all connected in an eternal water cycle - using the same water molecules that have existed since life began on Earth.

However, art allows us to experience and connect anew. It allows us to activate our senses and discover this complex and enigmatic element from different perspectives.

In Between Music we strive to provide our audience with an extraordinary experience. When we experience something out of the ordinary - something unusual or unexpected - our brain does not immediately decode or categorize it. In that very moment lies a perfect opportunity to sense, experience and perceive the world anew and question existing norms and habits.



Since 2004

Founded by composer and singer Laila Skovmand and violinist Robert Karlsson

Based in Aarhus, Denmark

Works globally

Occupies 15-30 freelance artists, producers, technicians during a typical year

Financed by funding and sales

AQUASONIC



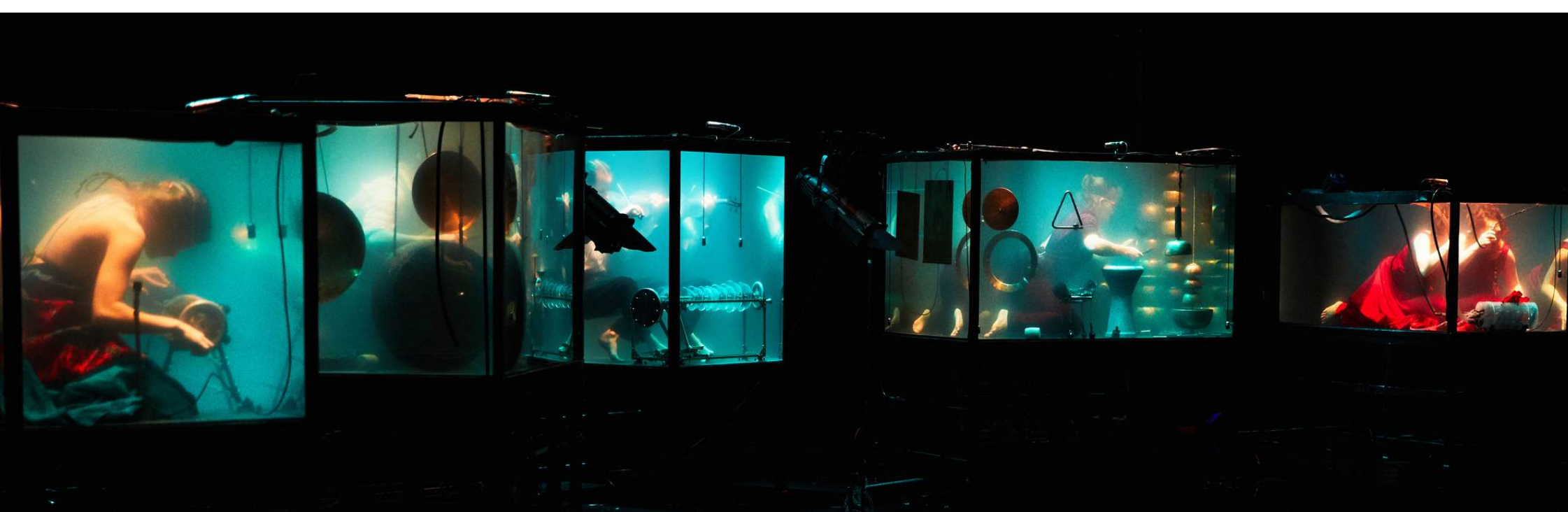
Underwater Concert Performance

Immersed in water

AquaSonic challenges the perception of human's relation with water and explores the states between connectedness and isolation.

From 5 tanks, 5 musicians perform this 45 minutes long underwater composition, using instruments and a singing technique it has taken years to develop.

The premiere took place in the Netherlands in 2016, and since then, it has been performed all over the world.

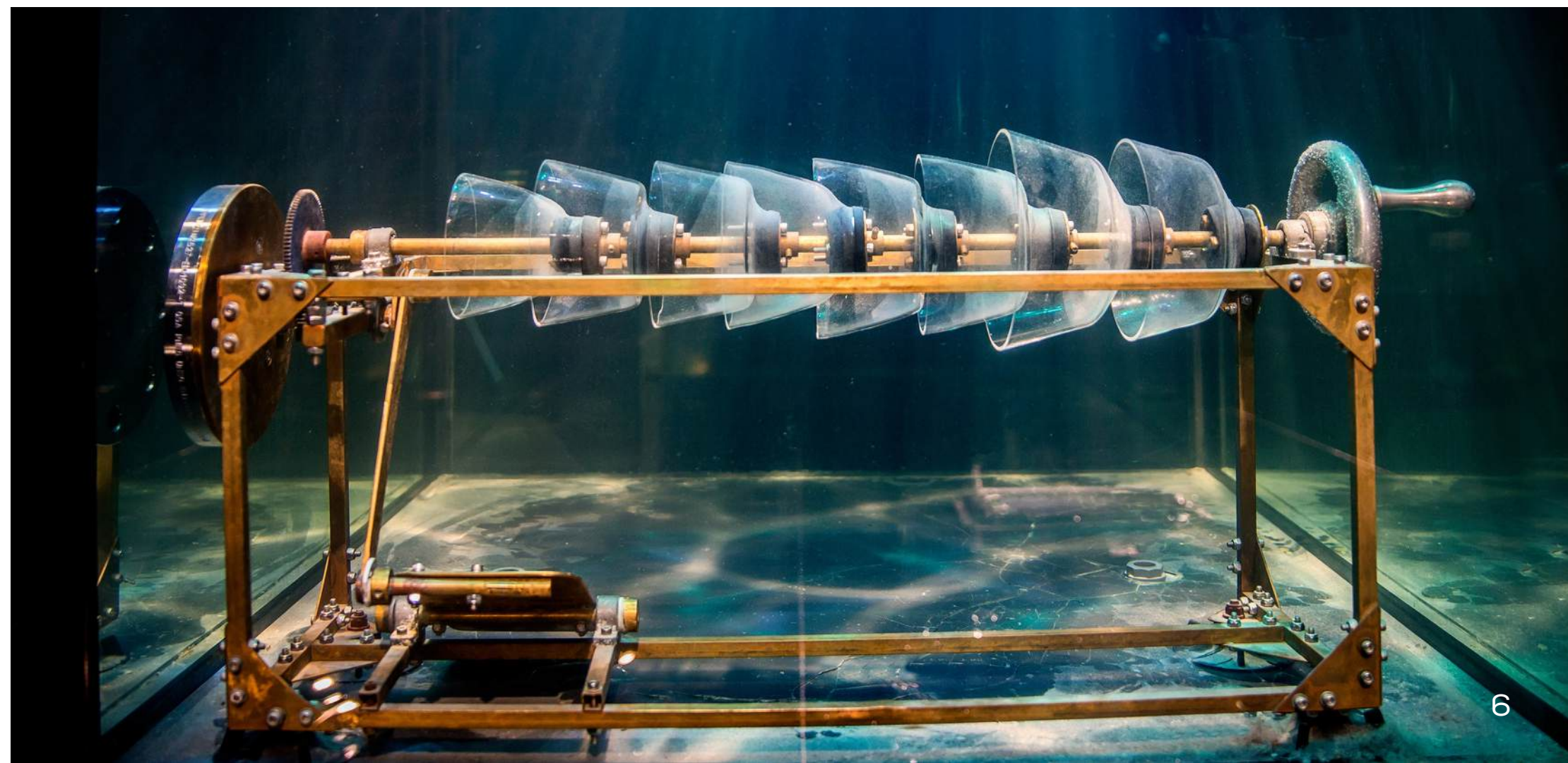


[Watch teaser](#)

15 years of artistic research shared with a broad audience

We like to call our instruments The real Divas of the show. They are also symbols of the many years of explorations that we have made. And we are happy to share it with others.

Marine biology, environmental arts, underwater acoustics, learning by exploration, human perceptions of water and many other related topics have been extracted from our work via different formats such as academic papers, talks, workshops, podcasts, and cross collaborative artistic projects.



Global reach

Both local, social and international media reflect a great interest in the work but also strong indicators of relatability on a very deep level across geographies and cultural preferences.

With plenty of reviews and thousands of personal comments, there is reason to believe, that AquaSonic touch space with something universal within humans.



@user-oo9sg7fk9g

I forgot about everything in the world, and listened carefully... very beautiful and unusual! I just imagined the underwater realms that mysteriously disappeared! very beautiful!!!(´▽`)



@helmyfirdiansyah1692

Millions of years ago if evolution didn't take us to the land, this kind of music will be in our everyday music



@Chi Chung Wong

#aquasonic 馭水之音
#newvisionartsfestivalHongKong2018

Mind blowing underwater performance...These Danish artists are so bold and innovative!

"Watching the presentation, it was hard to trust your own eyes"

The New York Times

"Works like AquaSonic exemplify art's potential to offer something to the world, "

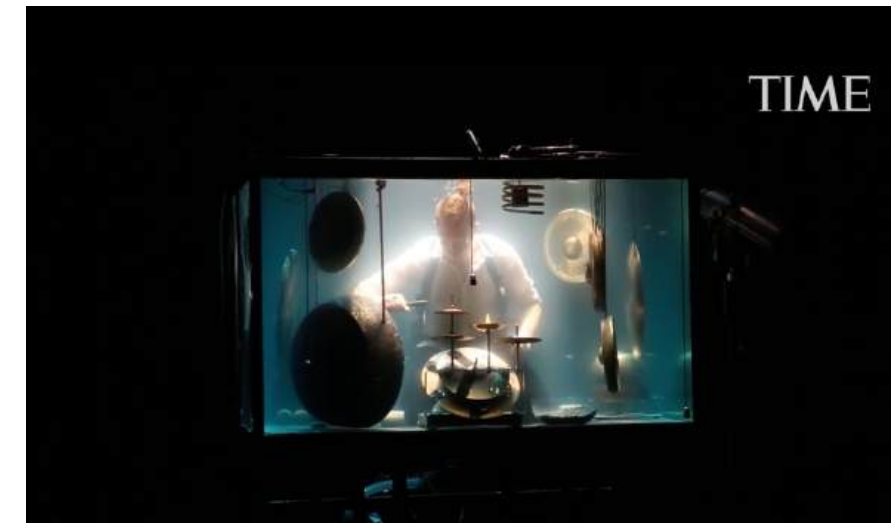
exeunt
MAGAZINE

"AquaSonic has a sound that is haunting in the most beautiful way"

HUFFPOST

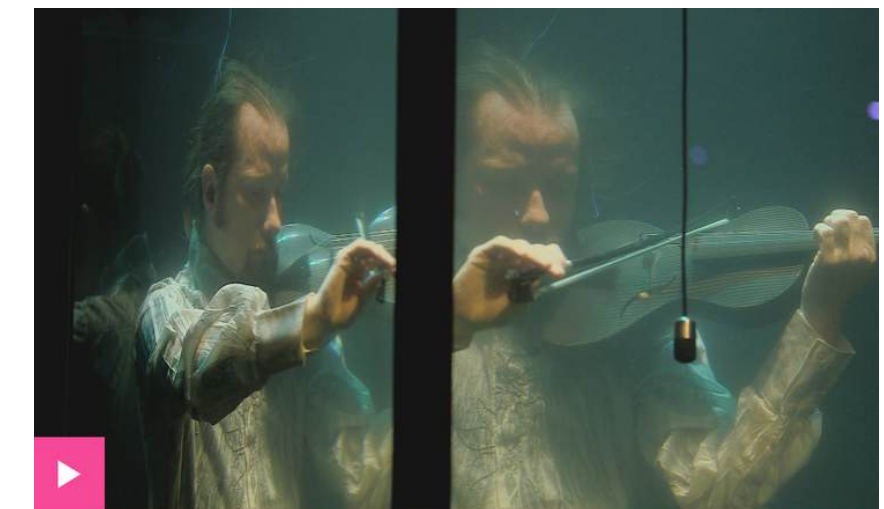
"Otherwordly and spellbinding"

The Daily Telegraph



"Eerily spectacular"

TIME



BBC
ARTS



Practical info

Length of performance

55 min without intermission

Stage size

Minimum 12 m wide x 9 m deep

5 to 7m height to light bars / lighting rig

Rigging time

2-3 days depending on conditions

Water

AquaSonic requires about 12.000 liters water on stage.

Water must be clean and drinkable.

Weight

5 heavy tanks/aquariums are placed on stage.

Total weight of aquariums: 11.500 kg

Total weight on stage, including water: around 17.000 kg.

Access

Access to stage from load-in with pallet jack or truck.

Access from load-in to stage must be min. 135 cm wide and 200 cm high.



Site Specific version in daylight

30 min. version, where all the tanks are visible all the time.

We only use a subtle ambient light to create atmosphere.

The concert can be performed outside, in daylight, 2-3 times a day.

Setup time depends on location.

Contact us for a tailored offer.



A woman with blonde hair is shown in profile, looking upwards. She is standing in a dark environment with a large digital display behind her. The display shows a blue and orange light effect, possibly representing a data visualization or a digital interface. The overall scene is dimly lit, with the primary light sources being the digital display and the woman's hair.

BREAKING THE SURFACE

Audio visual installation of 7 works

Into the depths of Being

Breaking the Surface is a total installation consisting of 7 works that invites you down under and into an underwater universe shaped by ancient myths, symbols and rituals, that have shaped life in connection with water within and around us across cultures and centuries.

Here, underwater compositions, art films, 3D video, poems, water, light and mist intertwine, from the first steps, walking between the voices of the Sirenes in a 7-voice underwater choir all the way to the final installation lying at the bottom of a lake.

Several of the installations are interactive.

[Watch trailer](#)



Nr 6 The Liminal Gate of Mist



Nr 3 Narcissus breaks the surface

*"This is the one song everyone
would like to learn
the song that is irresistible
/.../
Shall I tell you the secret
and if I do, will you get me
out of this bird suit?
/.../
I will tell the secret to you,
to you, only to you.
Come closer."*

Sirene Song
Margaret Atwood

Breaking the Surface

Water in myths and symbols

The Marriage of Opposites

Deeper and deeper beneath the surface of the water, you dive into a surreal cinematic universe populated by peculiar creatures and ancient symbols.

Inspired by the alchemists' journey towards "The Marriage of Opposites" the audience is guided on a journey filled with life, death, order, chaos and liminality, to the last stage of interconnectedness.





Nr 5 The Well



Nr 7 As Below So Above



Press and audience says

"Miracles in Water, "Breaking the Surface" wants to encourage people to think. About spaces, our relationship to water, the precious liquid. But you can also just let yourself drift, be amazed, find peace. Everything flows. Feel it for yourself!"
- Tageszeitung München

"A whole mythological world opened up for me. Enchanting."
- Seismograf, Denmark

"A sensual and unique masterpiece! I was deeply moved and amazed from start to finish."
Lilly Ann

"Beautiful, touching, thought-provoking and disturbing."
Anja Fønns

"I just had forgotten the temptation that can be caused by quietly singing voices, the astonishment that can be caused by little objects made alive, by the small things that catch your entire attention."
Dr. Philipp Schulte, dramaturg, Frankfurt

Breaking the Surface

Adjustable installation

Practical info

Breaking the Surface can be exhibited in many surroundings: a gallery space, a venue, or in site specific spaces like an old factory building. Although the entire installation is designed to work in a unity, separate pieces can work in their own right - even adjusted to the site.

An example is the artwork "The Sirenes" which hangs from the ceiling and has i.e. been exhibited in a barn accompanied by the residing swallows.

Breaking the Surface has successfully been presented to school children and to gallery-audiences alike.

Venue requirements for the whole installation

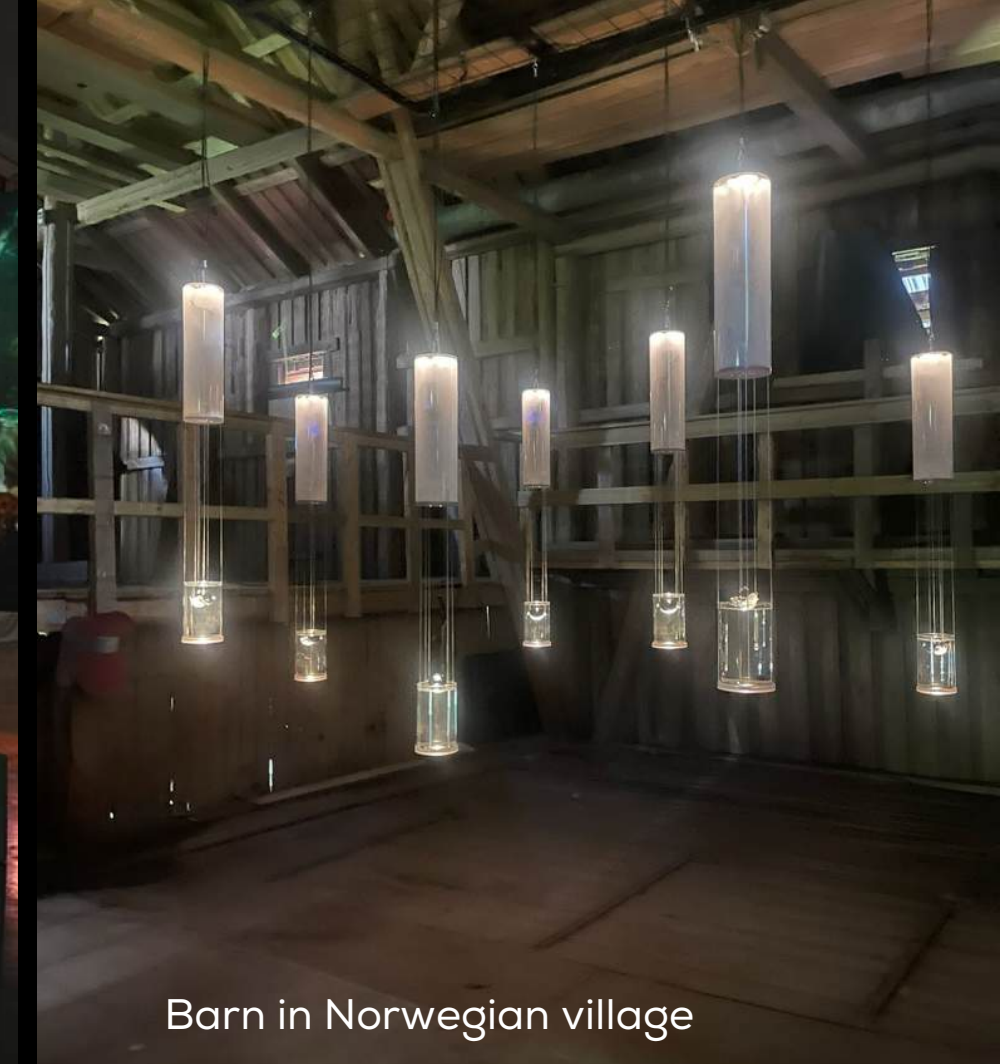
- Darkened room
- Minimum 250 m2. Multiple rooms can be an option
- Roof height minimum 3m
- Access to room with scenography on wheels. Some items are 3m long

Setup: 2 days.

Breakdown: 2 days



Gallery in Munich



Barn in Norwegian village



Concert venue in Denmark



SOUND'S HIDDEN JOURNEY
UNDER NORDIC WATERS



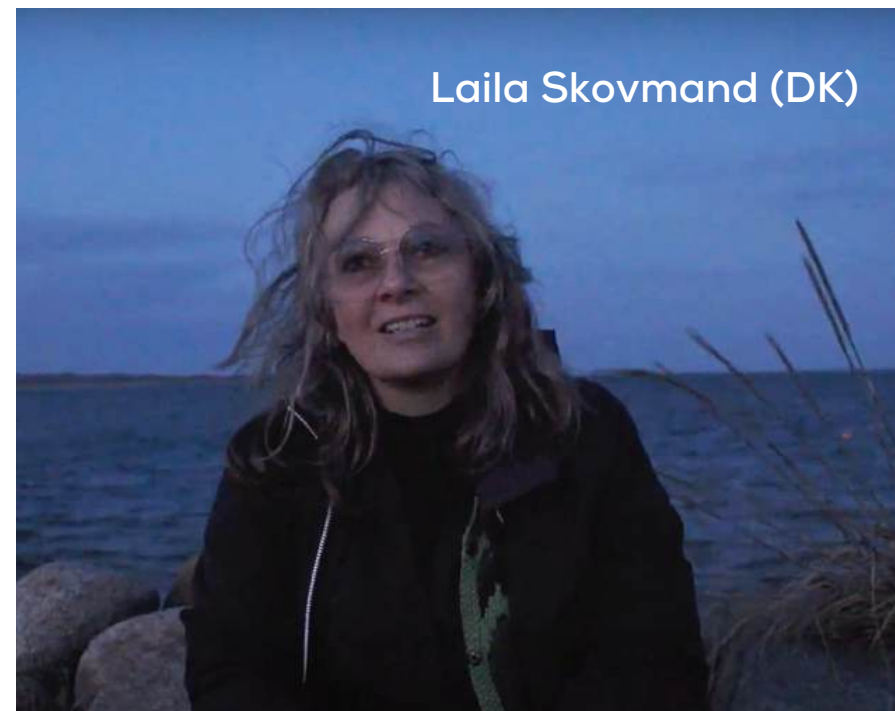
Inuk Silis Høegh (GL)



Petri Kuljuntausta (FIN)



Jens L Thomsen (FO)



Laila Skovmand (DK)



SOUND'S HIDDEN JOURNEY UNDER NORDIC WATERS

Immersive sound installation & documentaries

Turning science into artistic experiences

"Sound's hidden journey under Nordic Water", is an immersive sound art installation, video installation, plus 4 documentary films – based on underwater reverb recordings.

The work is a collaborative composition made by Laila Skovmand (Between Music), Petri Kuljuntausta (FIN), Jens L. Thomsen (FO) and Inuk Silis Høegh (GL)

The installation explores our connection to water and raises questions about the impact on our relationships with nature. The vernissage took place at the Nordic Culture Point in Helsinki April 2024.

These are some words from the visitors:

"I went somewhere very deep, under glaciers and fjords, where I met myself"
Päivi L. Helsinki

*"Hale Hodga was here
and will always be here"*

"Very healing and calming" J.

[Watch video
about the project](#)

SOUND'S HIDDEN JOURNEY

UNDER NORDIC WATERS

Research behind the project

Fishing for reverb under water

Imagine the haunting beauty of whale songs echoing through rocky underwater landscapes. Inspired by this natural phenomenon, Between Music ventured deep into the North, partnering with three Nordic countries to capture the untold soundscapes of the sea. From the hidden caves of the Faroe Islands to the majestic fjords of Greenland and the tranquil lakes of Arctic Finland, these recordings offer a rare glimpse into the mysterious world of underwater reverb.

While underwater reverberation has been a vital tool for scientific discovery, this project shifts the focus to the sound itself – creating an immersive sonic experience.

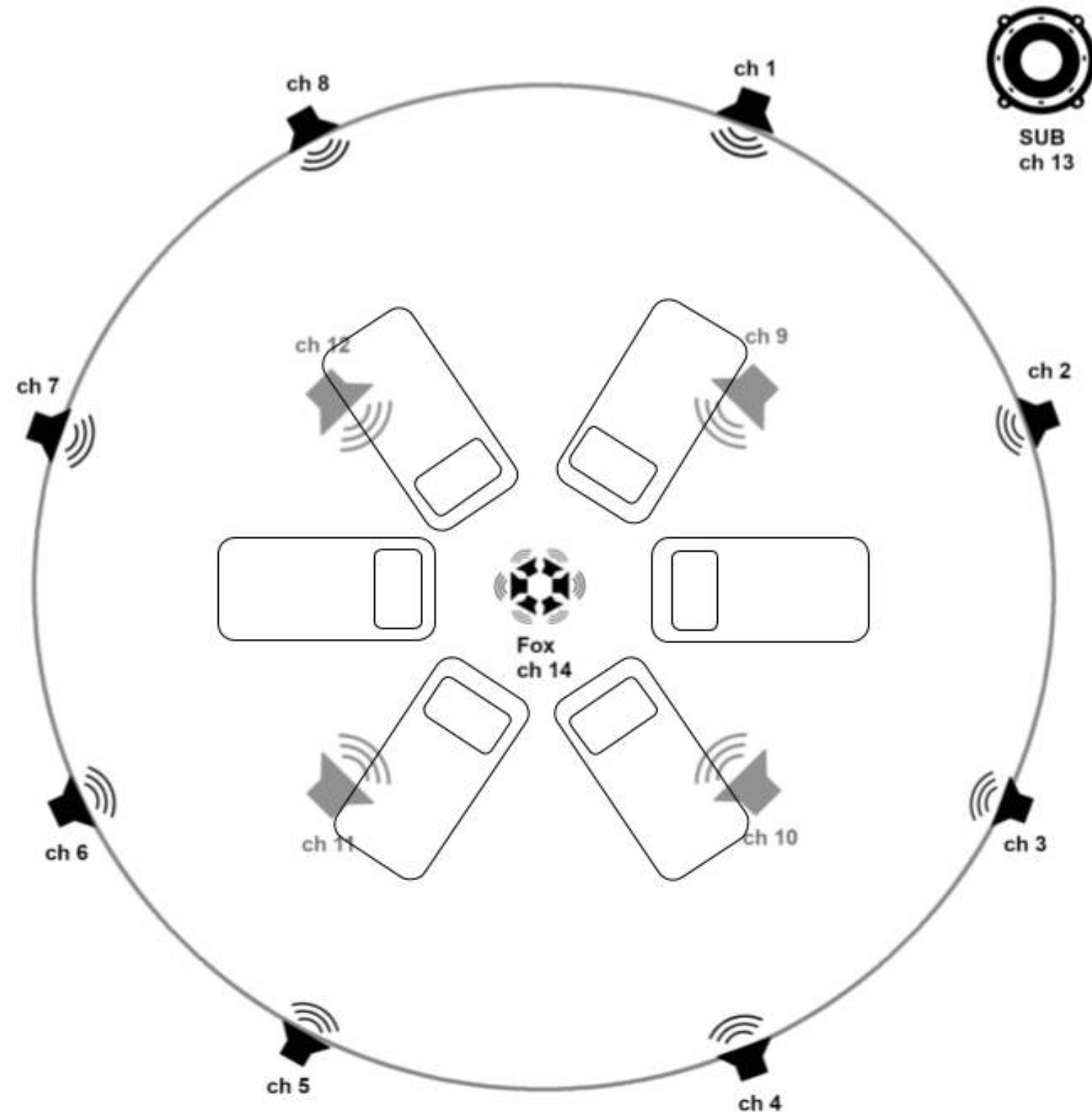
The project has been created together with scientists specialized in underwater acoustics, marine biology, bioacoustics, microorganisms, electro engineering, auralization, impulse resonsens and others.



"It is important for us scientists to get help from artists like Between Music to make people aware of how important it is to put focus on the water environment."

Magnus Wahlberg
Marine biologist
University of Southern Denmark

[Read sound engineer Roma Komar's booklet about the project](#)



Immersive sound installation

Practical info

24 min loop.

Venue requirements:

Minimum size of room is 30m², with a ceiling height preferably at 3m or higher

Venue supplies:

- 12 speakers of similar choice, preferably Genelec, with stands + subwoofer
- Hanging points or other rigging method for four speakers above the listening area
- 6 mattresses or bean bags
- 1-4 screens with headphones for documentaries

Between Music brings:

- Custom made hexagonal speaker

UNBOUND WATERS



Upcoming productions

Art Films & Installation

The water is all around us and within us - connecting all living things.

However, in Western societies, we often view water as something separate from ourselves— an element we strive to tame and manipulate in pursuit of enhancing our quality of life.

But as we do so, we detach ourselves from sensing our deeply rooted and mysterious connection to water that has existed and will continue to exist, regardless of our beliefs and behaviors.

It is a paradox that is terribly complicated to handle within the limitations of our rational and dualistic language.

Expected premiere in 2026

[Watch more about the project](#)

Water as the protagonist

In a connected series of 3 art films we follow the trails of man's attempts to gain control over the powerful and forever flowing water in search of gateways to the timeless, mysterious and fantastic interrelation with water beyond what our conventional language can comprehend.



Functionalist Water Tower in Brønshøj, Copenhagen



Old fishing community in Nr. Vorupør, Denmark



Art films and installation

Upcoming productions

Examples of different exhibition set-ups

The 3 art films will be produced so they can work as installations, that can be tailored to a specific place.

They will be edited in both a regular video format and as installations, exhibited on 3-4 screens with surround sound.



Examples of others work in possible settings





DROWNED REQUIEM



NGO Campaign & Video

Drowning the EU Anthem at the bottom of the Mediterranean Sea

People are still dying in the Mediterranean Sea. Along with every drowned refugee, the European Values dies as well.

To remind EU states of their duty, United4Rescue and Between Music turned the European Anthem into a requiem at the bottom of the Mediterranean Sea.

In 2020/21 the 'Drowned Requiem' spread through Europe. Thousands of Europeans reminded EU commission president Ursula van der Leyen of her duty through the campaign page, and United4Rescue raised donations for a rescue ship.

Unfortunately the topic is still highly relevant, why we offer the video and music for exhibition in relevant context..



[Learn more](#)

ALBUM RECORDING





AquaSonic on vinyl

Recording the world's first underwater band

There is something mysterious, perhaps strange, about recording an album underwater, but we know that it evokes strong curiosity. Maybe because the sound of music through a water filter resonates with something we all have in common?

AquaSonic Album is sound and music that cannot be categorized under existing frameworks. But throughout history, each era has called for and created new genres that have reflected and mirrored the present.

The recordings takes place in large aquariums, and from here we have worked our way towards solutions. Including placement of instruments in the tanks (which has a huge impact) as well as sound quality, recording equipment and physical possibilities of playing under water.

The release is expected in 2025.



[Watch more about the project.](#)



Reaching out to local community



Focus on local water

Workshop & installation

- Developing site specific art pieces together with local organisations and participants.
- Focus on local water resource, like river, lake, sea, groundwater etc.
- Can be different lengths or formats and with different topics
- With kids, young, adults or seniors

Example on timeframe.

- Fase 1, finding partners, target groups and topic
- Fase 2, workshop for several days, creating content. Participants follow up after workshop
- Fase 3, finalizing exhibition / showcase / concert





Talks

We offer talks in different formats and contexts.

- Artist talks after concerts
- Behind the scenes
- At institutions
- With or without moderator
- Together with local scientist, NGO or other relevant person

Examples of topics:

- Our work
- Art and activism
- Water
- Scientific research and technology
- Talks for visually impaired
- Talks for socially demanded

Try to sing or play percussion under water !

Underwater workshops

Workshops for young, adults or seniors

1-3 hours

15 participants

Requires a heated swimming pool



DEEP TOURING

Re-thinking touring by tailoring

We want to tour in more environmental-friendly ways and give more while we do so.

The many years of working artistically with water has provided us with a catalogue of discoveries, knowledge and activities that, today, have reached a level and a range that we can use in endless ways.

This has resulted in an approach to touring, where we offer different kinds of audience-centered activities for richer, deeper, and locally rooted artistic experiences - shifting focus from isolated quick-in-and-out performances to a more sustainable type of collaboration for the benefit of our shared relationship with water.

This is what we call "deep touring".

We invite you to reflect on how, wholly or partly, one or more of our projects could be tailored to your context and community. We are always happy to discuss new ways of utilizing our work.



Small village - Hølen, Norway

Case 1 of Deep Touring

In collaboration with the festival SånaFest in Norway, in the small village of Hølen, we looked into concrete ways of developing and planning activities in ways that are similar to those of an eco-system.

We built on the agendas and needs in local geographies or cultures like a unique relation to the local river, special challenges and different artistic traditions and professionals plus a specific local culture. In this case, we fitted into the whole, redesigning our projects to make sense to the place.

Program made in collaboration with the festival:

- Presentation of a site-specific AquaSonic Hybrid concert
- The Sirenes from the Breaking the Surface installation placed in a local barn
- 5 day workshop with youths, ending with co-created installation/performance based on local river
- Underwater workshops in local swimming pool
- Artist talk and film screening in local cafe
- Special presentation of artwork to children

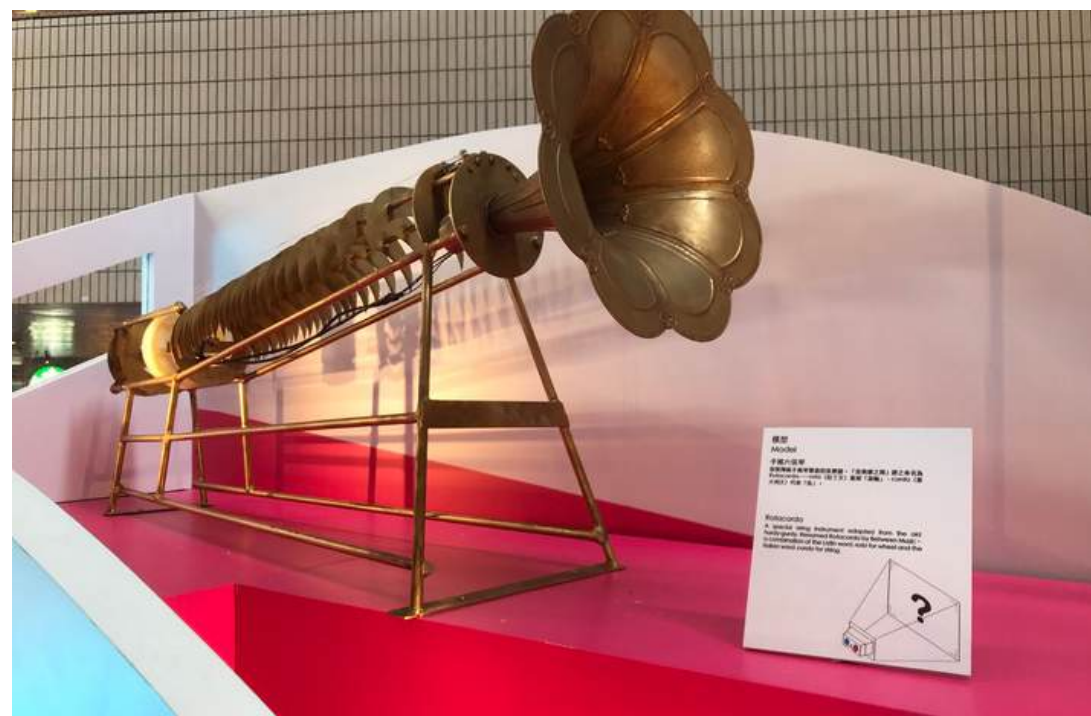


Major city - Hong Kong

Case 2 of Deep Touring

Program made in collaboration with the New Vision Arts Festival:

- 3 AquaSonic concerts in large theatre venue
- Artist talks after every concert
- Behind the stage talk for culture workers in Hong Kong
- Talk for visually impaired and special audio assistance during concert
- Exhibition of prototype instruments
- Talk at the Science Museum



RIGHT TO ART



Human rights convention, article 27,1

“Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific and its benefits.”

Right to ART is not a project or a program, but an overall idea to make our art accessible to more people, and to provide experiences for people who do not have the opportunity to prioritize art enjoyment.

I.e. in connection with AquaSonic concerts, we strive to offer an extra free concert to the socially disadvantaged or others who for various reasons do not have the opportunity to buy tickets.

We have done this for refugees, homeless, socially and mentally handicapped.



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