

An aerial photograph of a rugged coastline. Dark, jagged rocks are scattered across the frame, with white, frothy waves crashing against them. The water is a deep, dark teal color. In the center of the image, the word "SONA" is written in a stylized, white, hand-drawn font. The letter "O" is replaced by a series of concentric circles, resembling a ripple in water or a target. The letters "S", "N", and "A" are also drawn with multiple parallel lines, giving them a textured, hand-drawn appearance.

SONA

A project by **Stefano Curto** and **Sebastian Meyer**

The logo for 'SONA' features a stylized blue circular icon above the word 'SONA' in a hand-drawn, blue, multi-lined font. The icon consists of concentric, slightly irregular circles with a small white center.

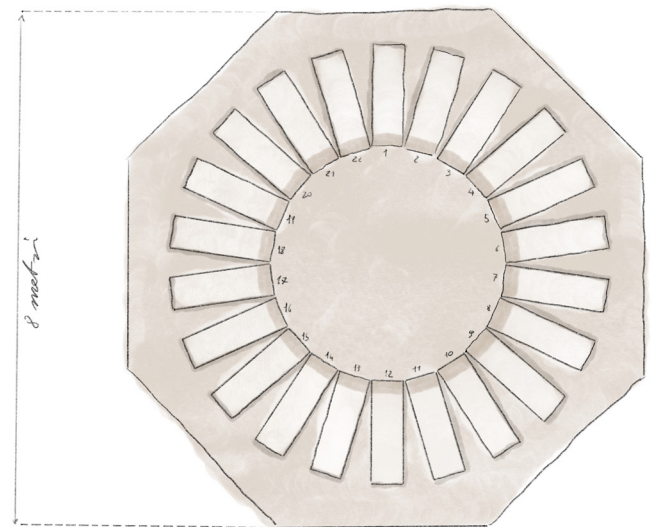
SONA is a durational sound work by **Stefano Curto** and **Sebastian Meyer**. SONA invites its listeners to dive deep into the soundscape of the more-than-human world. **The work follows the cycle of water as the element which connects all life on earth.** The composition recounts a journey to different geographical locations and their respective sonic worlds. The project transcends the concept of music and investigates the sources and expressions of sounds in its natural, undisciplined form.

Curto and Meyer believe that by listening carefully, one can establish a new idea of nature as one's partner and guide. The composition reflects the personal experiences of both artists, also incorporating the execution of an organic sound performance created by Curto and Meyer during the mixing. **All sounds were collected over three years and recorded with sophisticated technology including hydrophones, geophones and a 360° microphone rig.**

Sebastian and Stefano during their recordings addressed the theme of deep listening through specific meditation techniques suggested by Pauline Oliveros. Both artists use meditation practices in their daily lives as a profound means for the growth of awareness and spirituality.

The human body as well as plants and our planet are mainly made of Water. Listening through modern technologies to the amplified sound of its flow, its evaporation and condensation, its fall and its filtering, is a mystical experience that deeply touches our emotional universe.

During a 34 minute "journey", spectators will sit inside a large octagonal bell tent, 8 meters in diameter. The fabric allows the absorption of sound, which is not reflected, and does not compromise the execution of the performance emitted by 12 suspended speakers. 22 people will be welcomed at a time, who will be asked to sit in a circle and lie down on pleasant mattresses with headrests. Inside the room the light will remain dim. A warning sound will call for silence before the start of the sound composition. The spectator will thus be led to a complete immersive listening.



The musical composition celebrates the incredible diversity and beauty of life in all its forms. In doing so, it is important to the artists to create a work that is fascinating for both children and adults.

The individual **sound samples collected during the 3 years** in: Siwa, Basque Country, Venice, Crete, Iceland, Morocco, Peru, Colombia, Indonesia, Danube, Sinai, Nile, Alps, Tibet, Crete will be made public on the website.

The artists hope that the recipients connect to their environment differently through listening and that “a more comprehensive view of the world and one’s place in it unfolds.” All human life is inextricably interwoven with and interpenetrated by everything else.

(James Bridle)

The recordings include the clandestine clattering of pistol shrimp, the breath of Iceland geysers and geothermal boiling water. The cracking sounds of melting Glaciers and the clanking sounds of icebergs on their way to the sea. The busy life of ants and bees, the rain-calling monkeys of Sierra Nevada, the breathing of plants, the gushing spring in the desert of Siwa Oasis and the oozing of water into the soil and the gargle of the caves in Jaizkibel which have been washed into the shore by the Atlantic Ocean over millions of years.



— The story

Stefano Curto and Sebastian Meyer met on an island in Southeast Asia 15 years ago and have had a deep friendship ever since. They are both interested in similar research topics and artistic practices. Over time, they developed the idea to combine their artistic, intellectual and spiritual affinities to co-create a work.



— Tracks preview

ICE COMPOSITION

BOILING GEYSIR

SEA LIFE

WATER FLUTE

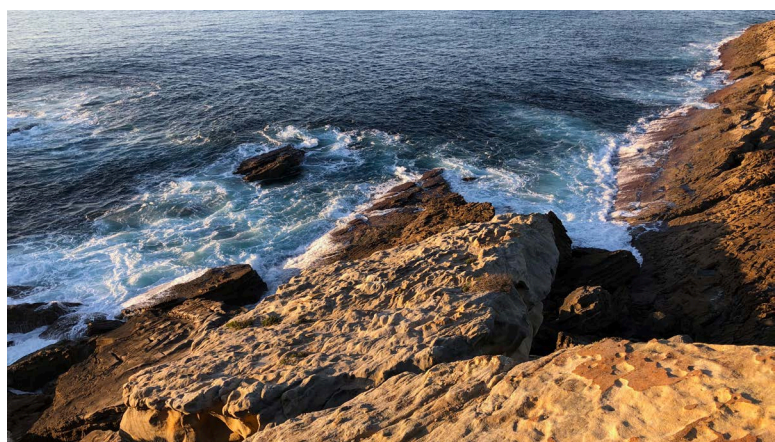


For more information

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— **Sebastian Meyer** lives and works in Vienna.

His artistic work explores listening as a compositional practice and how listening can reshape our relationship with our bodies and environment. His work often begins with the use of organic and non-organic materials to create sounds and sound montages on tape. Additionally, field recordings from a more-than-human world, self-generating patches on a Serge Modular System and manipulated acoustic instruments form the foundation of his improvised performances. Meyer views performance as an ongoing practice of discourse and learning, emphasizing the experimental interplay of sound in both time and space.

He studied media art at the Academy of Fine Arts and electro-acoustic and experimental music at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna. He completed Intensive I at the Center for Deep Listening NY.

Meyer also works as a sound designer and field recordist for Film and participates in various projects. He initiated the performance and co-learning program “prospect sessions” at the Academy of Fine Arts.

Together with Stefano Curto, he co-founded the SONA project, set to launch in Venice in 2025. With Kasho Chualan, he formed the duo “Creatures” where they compose and perform improvised music for prepared piano, tape, and toys. Since 2014, he has been a permanent member of the band Popsch.

Meyer has collaborated with Constanze Ruhm, Andrea Salzmänn, Alessandro Baticci, Conny Zenk, Annja Krautgasser, Sabine Marte, Jörg Zemmler, Borjana Ventzislavova, Teresa Vittucci, Mala Sirena, M185, Stefano Curto, Gods Entertainment, among others.

— **Stefano Curto**, a multifaceted artist, works with crystals and minerals to create “light canvases”, luminous textures that evoke a profound sense of transience and spirituality. His works are inspired by his travels, the rich influences of diverse cultures, and his intense spiritual quest. Through the manipulation of light, his art offers a moment of relief from the uncertainties of contemporary society and invites contemplation of the vast mysteries of the universe and the essence of existence. Curto meticulously embeds thousands of gems into plexiglass canvases, creating light works that transcend traditional forms, unique in their kind, such as the series THETArt, Evolution Involution, Through the Cosmic Nights, Maya, and Sindone Nera.

He has been composing music since a very young age, with a passion that blossomed during adolescence thanks to the influence of his musician father. A multi-instrumentalist, he writes lyrics and texts, sings and composes music from the punk rock era, forming various bands up to his recent works, which he records in his studio and during his travels under the name STENOX. He creates music videos and collaborates with other artists, bringing his unique vision to each project. His works are included in prestigious private and museum collections, reflecting his diverse and innovative artistic approach. His recent works include the video and song “L’Om”, presented at the cultural event “India Art Fair” at the Italian Embassy in New Delhi, demonstrating his commitment to creating dialogue between cultures through art. He also participates in collaborative projects such as the upcoming SONA with Sebastian Meyer, a sound installation that explores the water cycle as a creative and connective element of all vital elements. He records in India and Nepal and films in Rajasthan with Nitin Chauhan; “Honkey Donkey” a short film that blends traditional Indian puppet artistry with contemporary themes.



