

City Animals / Animal Cities

Travelling, migration and adaptation is part of the everyday life nowadays. Either we go for a holiday or we permanently move to a strange, new place, people need to find the right procedures of customary behaviour: they need to understand the novelties and adapt to them in order to find a new home by observing their new environment. City animals have to adopt novel foods, deal with unfamiliar enemies, communicate in noisy environments and cope with pollution - all those are quite challenging for humans as well.

Artists Heini Nieminen (FI) and Katalin Tesch (HU) have been working together on the topic of animal migration, adaptation and territory since 2013. They are not afraid of using all the available tools and methods to get to know as much as they can about the strategies of survival in the city, both for animals and humans. The observation of their animal neighbours culminates in different works, featuring various media, including photos, videos, drawings and participatory works.

Observation is always the starting point in their research. Nieminen builds a frame for the investigation - a small scale city for the animals and follows if the animals will take the city in use and how. Will there be real interaction between the work and animals? At the same time Nieminen "trains" the animals to be prepared to live in the city, to live in man-made circumstances. The results of the process will be seen in the exhibition as photos and videos. Meanwhile, upon her research on bird-songs in the city, Tesch asks her expat friends to try to imitate the sound of certain city birds. The resulting work is a single-channel soundscape composition, a "bird-chorus", in which she uses the different recordings as layers of a collage in order to create a recollection of a natural, bird-populated environment at the gallery space.

City Animals / Animal Cities is a wide range of works, with slightly different artistic attitudes. Artists' different residences, brings to light the various perspectives of the theme, with a twist of humor and absurdism.