

Artem Nanushyan
DIY

DIY brings together a new sculpture developed and built by Los Angeles-based artist Artem Nanushyan over the course of the summer with a small selection of recent and earlier paintings and works on paper. Technically, the sculpture is a computer with a rotating part, audiovisual components and sensors, given the form of a music box. A handmade electronic interpretation of a familiar antique device. Its repertoire includes over a hundred musical pieces from different eras and genres, brought together by the sculpture's distinctive sound.

Old children's songs associated with school and the first of September sit alongside heavy metal and other American music. The melodies are played through a custom synthesis algorithm built in SuperCollider, a programming language for making music, alongside tranquil field recordings of nature sounds, birdsong and other atmospheric effects. Sometimes even the melody is difficult to locate: try to extract one from metal and there may be very little there.

Hundreds of videos blur into one another: school ceremonies on the first of September across different decades, concerts and raves, fragments of nature, pornography, funny videos and more. They share an incidental quality. Bad compression, VHS, obsolete formats. Different times and situations flatten into the same sequence. Many come from the detritus of the Russian internet and were made before online video was routinely produced to hold someone's attention.

In this sense, the sculpture is less a music box in the conventional sense than a kind of broader axiological reliquary. It also has practical functions. In intercom mode, the sculpture can recognize a person in the room and maintain eye contact, turning its head to follow them as they move. It can become a cuckoo clock. It includes parental control. At night, it can serve as part of a home security system. Its repertoire of functions remains open.

On the lower floor, paintings and works on paper from different periods are shown in a cosy evening atmosphere.

Samuel Staples

Josey
03.10–31.10.26
Gladbacher Strasse 25, Köln