



#5 Pop-up Kunsthalle zu Kiel Open Group. Repeat After Me II

25 April to 20 September 2026

An exhibition by Kunsthalle zu Kiel at the Flandernbunker

Kunsthalle zu Kiel presents the two-channel video installation *Repeat After Me II* by Ukrainian artist collective Open Group (Yuriy Biley, Pavlo Kovach, Anton Varga) at the Flandernbunker. The work, which addresses Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, was first presented in the Polish Pavilion at the 2024 Venice Biennale, curated by Marta Czyż.

In the two films, produced in 2022 and 2024, civilian witnesses imitate the sounds of war as if taking part in a karaoke performance. The sounds of drones, air-raid sirens, tanks, missiles and defence systems — recreated from memory — merge into a haunting soundscape that is both deeply moving and, in the face of the real machinery of war, makes palpable one's own sense of powerlessness. With *Repeat After Me II*, Open Group invites visitors to engage with the wartime experiences of civilians. A karaoke stage installed in the exhibition space may turn visitors into performers themselves, while also drawing attention to their role as listeners.

For Kunsthalle zu Kiel, this presentation marks the second project in its pop-up series of site-specific projects that extend contemporary art into the city. Following on from an installation at the historic city centre at Alter Markt, the programme unfolds at another site deeply embedded within the city of Kiel's history. The Flandernbunker stands as a ruin — a stark testament to the madness of war and the experience of defeat. Built by the Wehrmacht in 1943 using forced labour, it served as a shelter for the 5th Submarine Flotilla of the Naval High Command East and as a coordination centre for the Baltic Sea region and the city of Kiel. Since 2001, the non-profit organisation Mahnmal Kilian has been responsible for preserving the bunker's ruins, and has established the site as a regional centre for education and remembrance related to the Nazi era. Today, the city's naval base and other Bundeswehr buildings are located in its immediate vicinity.

Presented within this historic form of defensive architecture, *Repeat After Me II* grows in atmospheric intensity. What at first appears to be an ordinary karaoke performance soon loses its innocence. The work gives voice to refugees, whose testimonies are documented by the artists and transformed into a shared space of resonance.

Exhibition curator *Repeat After Me II*: Marta Czyż

Exhibition curator Kiel: Muriel Meyer

Acting director of Kunsthalle zu Kiel: Dr. habil. Regina Göckede

Kunsthalle zu Kiel at the Flandernbunker, Kiel
Mahnmal Kilian e.V.
Kiellinie 249
24106 Kiel, Germany
Hours: daily 10am until 5pm

T +49 431 8805756
info@kunsthalle-kiel.de
www.kunsthalle-kiel.de
<https://www.instagram.com/kunsthalle.kiel/>