

Tobias Madison, Emanuel Rossetti & Stefan Tcherepnin

The Power Station, Dallas

Invited by The Power Station — a not-for-profit exhibition space housed in a renovated power and light building in Dallas — to create a project that utilized the raw nature of the space, Tobias Madison decided to expand the show to include two friends: Emanuel Rossetti and Stefan Tcherepnin. The three artists had exhibited together in a rambling 2012 exhibition at Kunsthalle Bern, and the openness of the proposal for The Power Station made it a ripe spot to continue the collaboration.

Creating a weekly event for the space rather than a conventional exhibition, the threesome came up with a far-fetched concept: one that turned two levels of the Power Station into a flooded water installation that produced a dripping sound concert. Seeing the entire event as a musical composition, the artists created a cryptic score to define the various movements, materials and objects used in the work.

Every Friday at 1 pm the second level of the gallery was flooded with water until it dripped through the cracks of the poured concrete floor. The gallery manager was assigned to place aluminum pans as needed on the ground floor to catch the water and — with the help of added pieces of plastic and metal — to create a symphony of drumming sounds.

A video animation was made in tandem with the installation and shown on a flat-screen monitor, next to the score. Like the abstract vectors in the score, the animation was meant to be a cerebral interpretation of the event, pointing in many different directions.

The artists also staged opening and closing performances, with musicians making spontaneous sounds on instruments. The performances were conceived as conceptual amplifiers or attractors to keep people engaged in the space — not that anyone with an eye for the unconventional and a taste for the avant-garde would ever want to leave.

by PAUL LASTER



*Tobias Madison, Emanuel Rossetti & Stefan Tcherepnin, "Drip Event," 2013.
View of the exhibition at The Power Station, Dallas. Courtesy The Power Station, Dallas.
Photo: Chad Redmon*