

## **300 Audio Tracks on Sites of NS Terror in Munich 1933–1945**

**Launch: 23 September 2010**

With her work *Memory Loops*, Michaela Melián has been awarded first prize in the art competition 'Victims of National Socialism: New Forms of Remembering and Remembrance' held by the Bavarian State Capital of Munich. The project is being carried out in cooperation with the Bavarian Broadcasting Corporation / Radio Play and Media Art Dept.

The basic idea behind the competition stems from the recognition that new forms of remembrance require taking a contemporary approach to remembering and to the memory of the victims of National Socialism. Various sites throughout the city that have connections to both victims and the perpetrators are to be made visible, thoughts on them expressed through the medium of art, and linked to one another. A work of art that does not have any of the traditional characteristics of a memorial has therefore been awarded the prize.

The artistic concept behind Michaela Melián's *Memory Loops* takes up this challenge convincingly – it is a memorial not tied to any one particular place that can be experienced by everyone individually at any time and located precisely within the Munich city area. By choosing the internet and the mobile phone as media, contemporary means of communication are being consciously implemented.

### **The Project**

*Memory Loops* is an audio artwork largely based on the transcription of historical and recent material from victims of National Socialism and contemporary witnesses: witnesses of the discrimination, persecution and exclusion to which people in Munich were subjected under the NS regime. The reports and interviews have been transcribed and recorded by actresses and actors, with children reading the historical documents. Through this distancing effect the archival material gains a timeless relevance.

All the voices have been embedded within the constant flow of an original musical score which links the individual text sequences. Fragments of historical recordings of works by Karl Amadeus Hartmann, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, Kurt Weill and Coco Schumann were used for the composition and arranged into one delicate, atmospheric sound. The musical instruments included are the piano, cello, guitar, flute, metallophone and glass harmonium.

The website [\*memoryloops.net\*](http://memoryloops.net) forms the central element of the artwork and includes all reports by witnesses in the form of 300 audio tracks in German and 175 in English that can be listened to and downloaded. Each track is a collage of voice(s) and music thematically tied to a place in the

## **300 Audio Tracks on Sites of NS Terror in Munich 1933–1945**

former 'capital of the NS movement'. On the website, all audio tracks can be found on a map drawn up by the artist.

Five of the 300 German audio tracks are one-hour *Memory Loops* that cover the whole city area with a focus on different subjects. These voice-collages will be broadcast as a radio series on Bayern 2, starting on 26 September at 3 p.m., and can also be downloaded.

### ***Memory Loops* – make your own personal compilation**

All audio tracks can be downloaded and stored as a track list. Whether transferred to a mobile phone or an MP3 player, everybody interested can follow his or her own route through the city listening to their personally selected *Memory Loops*.

### ***Memory Loops* in the Munich city area**

From 23 September onwards, MP3 players with all the one-hour *Memory Loops* audio tracks will be available for hire free of charge in a number of museums and institutions in Munich. A *Loop* in English is also available.

In addition, signs around the city with telephone numbers providing direct-dial access to the 60 audio tracks associated with a particular location at local rates.

These 60 voice-collages are also available as an iPhone App (via the App store), which contains additional information like a city map with location markers. Direct navigation to the significant places becomes possible by leveraging the phone's GPS capabilities.

## 300 Audio Tracks on Sites of NS Terror in Munich 1933–1945

### **From the jury's explanation**

“Ms. Melián’s work deals in an artistically sophisticated way with the fates of all the victims of National Socialism. At the same time, the perpetrators have not been excluded either. The most varied historical dimensions are analysed focussing on certain ‘crystallisation points’ in the City of Munich. Using archival material and contemporary witness statements, Melián artistically shapes voice-collages of the highest quality. Research and realisation entail broad institutional networking that already involves the integration of younger generations. The artwork is decentralised and at the same time refers to historically important sites. By means of *Memory Loops* (voice-collages) on mobile phones and other sound storage media, Melián creates an all-pervasive form of remembering and remembrance. Melián’s concept of the decentral, the personal, the immaterial and the temporary, together with a high degree of audience participation, opens up avenues for knowledge and experience, underpinned by humanism and democracy, that avoid the interpretative presumption of specialist opinion. Cautiously but insistently, Melián’s project articulates an appeal to humanness and democracy in the face of the atrocities of National Socialism.”

### Jury members:

Prof. Liz Bachhuber, Bauhaus Weimar

Chris Dercon, Director, Haus der Kunst, Munich

Dr. Cornelia Gockel, Art critic, Munich

Prof. Dr. Raphael Gross, Director, Leo Baeck Institute, London,

Jewish Museum and Fritz Bauer Institute, Frankfurt

Prof. Dr. Kai-Uwe Hemken, Kunsthochschule Kassel

Dr. Angelika Nollert, Director, Neues Museum, Nuremberg

## 300 Audio Tracks on Sites of NS Terror in Munich 1933–1945

### The Artist

**Michaela Melián**, an artist and musician, lives in Munich and Hamburg. She is a professor for time-based media at the Hochschule der bildenden Künste (HfbK), Hamburg. She is a member of the band F.S.K. (Freiwillige Selbstkontrolle).

In 2008 Michaela Melián was the winner of the competition ‘Opfer des Nationalsozialismus – Neue Formen des Erinnerns und Gedenkens’ (‘Victims of National Socialism – New Forms of Remembering and Remembrance’), initiated by the City of Munich, with her concept *Memory Loops*.

**Selection of exhibitions:** *Home Less Home*, Museum on the Seam, Jerusalem (2010); *See this Sound*, Lentos Museum Linz (2010); *Ludlow 38*, New York (2009); *The Dwelling*, ACCA Melbourne, Australia (2009); *Speicher*, Ulmer Museum (2008); *Speicher*, Cubitt Gallery, London (2008); *Recollecting*, MAK, Vienna (2008); *Vertrautes Terrain*, ZKM Karlsruhe; *TALK/SHOW*, k.m@tranzit dielne, Bratislava (2007); *Föhrenwald*, KW Kunstwerke, Berlin (2006)

**Radio plays:** *Konvent* (with Thomas Meinecke and David Moufang, BR / ZKM / intermedium 2, 2002), *Föhrenwald* (BR / kunstraum münchen 2005), *Speicher* (BR in cooperation with the Munich Kammerspiele 2008)

2010 The City of Munich Art Prize

2009 Radio Play of the Year presented by the Deutsche Akademie der Darstellenden Künste for *Speicher*

2006 ‘Hörspielpreis der Kriegsblinden’ award / Audio art prize for *Föhrenwald*

2005 ARD Radio Play Prize and ARD-Online Award for *Föhrenwald*

“Her work and her use of both real and metaphorical space is spare yet encompassing, assured and quite moving.” Roberta Smith, *New York Times*

“German artist Michaela Melian has explored the politics of memory for many years now. Her works become blueprints for an approach to history in which the alacrity of deconstructive criticism is intimately tied to an appreciation of people whose life and work made a difference.” Jan Verwoert, *Frieze Magazine*, London

“Michaela Melián’s artistic appropriation of history is reminiscent of Benjamin’s historico-philosophical concept concerning the dialectic image, in which past and present come together in one constellation, immediately shedding light on their relationship.”

Petra Löffler, *Springerin* contemporary art magazine, Vienna

## **300 Audio Tracks on Sites of NS Terror in Munich 1933–1945**

### **Presentation of *Memory Loops* and related events:**

**Rathausgalerie Kunsthalle (City Hall Art Gallery), Marienplatz 8, Munich**

**Press conference: Thursday, 23 September, 2010, 11 a.m.**

Further information is available under [www.memoryloops.net](http://www.memoryloops.net)

**Opening: Thursday, 23 September, 2010, 6 p.m.**

Speakers include:

Michael Leonhart, Munich City Council, representing the Lord Mayor

Dr. Hans-Georg Küppers, Head of Municipal Dept. of Arts and Culture, Munich

Dr. Johannes Grotzky, Director, Bavarian Broadcasting Corporation

The artwork will be presented at the Rathausgalerie Kunsthalle with a number of audio points until 3 October, 2010.

Opening times: Tues. – Sun.: 11 a.m.–7 p.m.

### **Events**

**Rathausgalerie Kunsthalle (City Hall Art Gallery), Marienplatz 8, Munich**

**Sunday, 26 September, 2010, 11 a.m.**

***Memory Loops*** – Michaela Melián in conversation with Chris Dercon, Director, Haus der Kunst, Munich

**Thursday, 30 September, 2010, 7 p.m.**

**Podium discussion *Gedenk.Kunst (Memory.Art)* –  
*contemporary artistic possibilities for memorials in public spaces***

Welcoming speech by Dr. Hans-Georg Küppers, Head of Municipal Dept. of Arts and Culture, Munich

Guests:

Prof. Dr. Aleida Assmann, University of Konstanz – Literature Studies / English

Prof. Nikolaus Hirsch, future Head of the Städelschule, Frankfurt am Main

Prof. Dr. Harald Welzer, Head of research into Interdisciplinary Memory Research, Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities, Essen

Moderation:

Julian Doepp, Bavarian Broadcasting Corporation / Radio Play and Media Art Dept.

## **300 Audio Tracks on Sites of NS Terror in Munich 1933–1945**

### ***Memory Loops* on Bayern 2**

**24 September 2010, 8.30 p.m.**

New ways to remember – the *Memory Loops* art project (in German)

Michaela Melián in conversation with Ania Mauruschat in hör!spiel!art.mix, Bayern 2

### **Broadcasting of the five, one-hour *Memory Loops*:**

Sundays, from 26 September to 24 October, 2010 at 3 p.m.

Mondays, from 27 September to 25 October, 2010 at 8.30 p.m.

### **Excerpts of the podium discussion to be broadcast on:**

1 October, 2010, 8.30 p.m. in hör!spiel!art.mix, Bayern 2

### **Technical requirements**

*Memoryloops.net* is a flash multimedia application with which the high-resolution city maps devised by Michaela Melián can be called up and viewed with a variable zoom function.

As with Google Maps, viewers can shift the viewport up and down both the x and y axes and, using the wheel on the mouse zoom in or out at any point on the map. If a section of the map is viewed in more detail, images are automatically loaded in the appropriate resolution enabling even the smallest of details on the map to be seen clearly. Symbols on the map act as links to the 300 audio tracks in German and 175 in English produced by Michaela Melián. These tracks can be listened to, downloaded or saved in a list, to be called up later on site. These lists can also be used in conjunction with websites optimised for mobile phones with an internet function, enabling audio tracks to be heard when visiting the locations themselves.

In addition, 60 signs with URLs and telephone numbers for accessing audio tracks will be erected at principal locations throughout Munich. Should no internet link be available, individual audio tracks can still be called up on site at any time by phoning specific numbers.

These 60 audio tracks are also available as an iPhone App (via the app store), which contains additional information like a city map with location markers. Direct navigation to the significant places becomes possible by leveraging the phone's GPS capabilities.

**Contact**

Kirsten Boettcher, [presse@memoryloops.net](mailto:presse@memoryloops.net)

Press office at the Dept. of Arts and Culture, City of Munich:

Jennifer Kozarevic, [presse.kulturreferat@muenchen.de](mailto:presse.kulturreferat@muenchen.de), tel: + 49 89-233-26005

Burgstrasse 4, 80331 Munich

Bavarian Broadcasting Corporation / Radio Play and Media Art Dept.

[hoerspiel@brnet.de](mailto:hoerspiel@brnet.de); tel: + 49 89-5900-2252

Rundfunkplatz 1, 80335 Munich

## 300 Audio Tracks on Sites of NS Terror in Munich 1933–1945

### Imprint

**Michaela Melián**

**Memory Loops | 300 Audio Tracks on Sites of NS Terror in Munich, 1933–1945**

A project by the Municipal Department of Arts and Culture, Munich / 'Freie Kunst im öffentlichen Raum' in cooperation with the Bavarian Broadcasting Corporation / Radio Play and Media Art Dept.

Artist: Michaela Melián

Art direction: Markus Weisbeck / Surface, Frankfurt am Main, Berlin

Website: Stefan Ammon / Meso Web Scapes, Frankfurt am Main

Voices: Peter Brombacher, Ferdinand von Canstein, Anna Clarin, Caroline Ebner, Florian Fischer, Julia Franz, Nicola Hecht, Gabriel Ascanio Hecker, David Herber, Johannes Herrschmann, Hans Kremer, Julia Loibl, Laura Maire, Juno Meinecke, Thomas Meinecke, Stefan Merki, Wolfgang Pregler, Steven Scharf, Joana Verbeek von Loewis

Music: Carl Oesterhelt and Michaela Melián

Sound engineering: Susanne Herzig, Hans Scheck

Production: Mario Thaler and Michaela Melián

Casting: Andrea Fenzl

Production and project assistant: Kirsten Böttcher

Research: Kirsten Böttcher, Dana Brüller, Anja Deutsch, Elisabeth Dietrich, Jennifer Güzel, Barbara Hutzelmann, Michaela Melián, Tina Rank, Katharina Ruhland, Jakob Schäfer, Severin Viktor

Translations from the German: Christopher Jenkin-Jones, Christopher Wynne

English coach: Christopher Jenkin-Jones

Mobile application: Dr. Torsten Götz, tomis / Mobile Information Services, Gröbenzell

Concept, composition and execution: Michaela Melián

Bavarian Broadcasting Corporation / Radio Play and Media Art Dept.:

Herbert Kapfer, Katarina Agathos

Rundfunkplatz 1, 80335 Munich, tel. + 49 89-5900 2252; e-mail: hoerspiel@brnet.de

Municipal Department of Arts and Culture, Dept. 1 / Visual arts team

Burgstrasse 4, 80331 Munich, tel: + 49 89-233-26087, e-mail: kerstin.moeller@muenchen.de



Landeshauptstadt  
München  
Kulturreferat

