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Press release  
Zaandam, July 16 2019

## NICOLÁS JAAR IS HET HEM'S SECOND GUEST

The Chilean artist and composer Nicolás Jaar will be the second guest at Het HEM. His ten-week stay in Zaandam will be an intensive exploration of the Hembrug site. Together with his 'Shock Forest Group' Jaar will conduct research into Het HEM, from which the site's historical, sociological, archeological and geographical data will serve as the source material for a sound piece that is both about and from the location where it is played.



Nicolás Jaar, 2019 © Menno Kok

Our current time is dominated by rational knowledge of data and facts. Hard certainties and alternative facts are difficult to tell apart, and although we are increasingly measuring and looking, we seem to have forgotten how to know things. What role can music play in this? As a form of communication that goes beyond facts, words and gestures, music penetrates deeply into our being and touches a universal emotional understanding within us.

For the second Chapter, Nicolás Jaar and his team of researchers will use Het HEM as a metonymy for the problems that the world is currently facing. By zooming in on hyper-local data from the Hembrug site where Het HEM is located, Jaar will develop a piece of music in which both data and intangibles merge into a new form of 'listening'.

Het HEM's director Kim Tuin: "This Chapter takes this building and very literally uses it as a focus for experimentation and process, rather than outcome."

While the research group will continuously develop new work during Jaar's three month stay, Chapter 2WO will launch on September 20 with the opening of a new sound and light artwork by Jaar in the 200-meter long shooting range in the basement of Het HEM. Throughout the programme, (temporary) results of the research will be presented as musical performances during Amsterdam Dance Event and Amsterdam Art Weekend, for which Jaar will also invite international musicians to perform.

#### About the Shock Forest Group

Shock Forest Group (2019) is a research team consisting of architects, cartographers, linguists, coders, urban planners, sound makers, biologists, geneticists, graphic designers and engineers. It is an experiment in open research, where the research categories surface as the research develops. It is also an experiment in alternative education, a classroom without a teacher, where the learning emerges as the product of polyphony. One end goal of the Group is to create an 'instrument of resonance' which, when placed in a specific context, analyses and orders (or disorders) the local data (and non-data). The Shock Forest Group instrument of resonance might let out a scream (a sound), which could unveil the multiple layers of local violences and communicate these via sound, light and/or movement.

#### About the Hembrug site

The Hembrug site was put into use at the end of the 19th century for the manufacture of weapons and ammunition. Building 429, where Het HEM is located, was commissioned by NATO in 1956 to produce .50 bullets. After years of vacancy, the site became public again in 2014. This monumental place with tangible traces to its controversial history serves as a fitting backdrop for questioning current social developments.

CHAPTER 2WO opens on September 20 and can be seen until December 1.

Note to editor:

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