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PHOTOGRAPHS

6 MAY – 31 AUGUST 2017

Monday to Saturday, 2–6 pm, admission free

Palazzetto Bru Zane - Venice

As part of its programme of support for photography and music, the Fondation Bru is pleased to present “LISTEN, Imaging American Music” by Rhona Bitner.

The LISTEN project is a visual catalogue of American Rock n’ Roll history. It began in 2006 with a desire to image CBGB, the iconic temple of Punk on Manhattan’s Bowery, before it closed its doors for good. That click of the shutter, days before Patti Smith played the last concert, spun into so many more. That moment stretched itself into a decade, composing a comprehensive visual account of American music’s inner architecture. It took Bitner across the United States in search of the recording studios, clubs, concert halls, arenas, ballrooms, churches, living rooms, prisons and fields where a generation’s most vital music was created, played, witnessed and engraved.



*“Experiencing music, listening, is an act both collective and personal.
For this reason I stood in the spaces alone.
Room is cleared for memory, which in turn accepts time.
And time is the heart of music, as the pulse and rhythm of call and response.
LISTEN is my response.”* RHONA BITNER

Assembled over ten years of research and road trips, this expansive photographic undertaking includes over 350 images. In them we can still hear the guitar riffs, drum beats and shouts of the audience. The project constitutes a unique and intriguing landscape of this musical heritage.

By exhibiting a selection of photos from LISTEN in the setting of the Palazzetto Bru Zane during the Venice Art Biennale, the Fondation Bru is furthering its commitment to cultural and, in particular, musical heritage. Through the work of photographer Rhona Bitner, it invites us to rediscover a landscape of music in the United States.

THE FONDATION BRU, CULTURAL PATRON

Ever since its creation, the Fondation Bru has made culture a priority. Every day, it acts to champion talent, to share emotions, to share knowledge and preserve heritage. This constantly reaffirmed engagement is particularly marked in two fields dear to its founder, Doctor Nicole Bru: music and photography.

THE SETTING: THE PALAZZETTO BRU ZANE

A small Venetian palazzo built in the 17th century, the Casino Zane was originally a place of divertissement dedicated to music. In 2006, the Fondation Bru set out to restore it in the spirit of the day, gradually restoring its original prestige and colours, giving it back its soul and its purity. It then brought it back to life in 2009 by creating within its walls the Palazzetto Bru Zane - Centre de Musique Romantique Française. The mission of this Venetian foundation is to bring to public attention little-known works and forgotten composers from France's rich 19th-century musical heritage.

Every two years, during the Art Biennale, the Fondation Bru will invite a photographer to show a selection of works in this discreet but charming palazzo. The cycle of exhibitions started in 2015 with *Couleurs* by Gilles Caron (the Fondation Bru supports the Fondation Gilles Caron).

Palazzetto Bru Zane — San Polo 2368. 30125 Venise. Italie — T + 39 041 52 11 005

About

RHONA BITNER

Rhona Bitner explores the parallel between theatre and photography. She says “in both, we enter a black box and an image appears.” Her work is a visual exploration into the experience of theatre and performance, via the static surface of a photograph. Each aspect is rigorously observed, studied and inventoried, each series a process stretched over many years. She began with CIRCUS, a study of performers in the ring, then went on to the stage itself, the lighting, curtains and proscenium, in the STAGE project, after which she began LISTEN, a mapping of the history of American music. Beginning in the early 1990s, she has been methodically constructing a visual encyclopaedia of the idea of performance. Rhona Bitner lives and works in New York and Paris.

Complete biography: www.rhonabitner.com

LA FONDATION BRU

The Fondation Bru was created at the initiative of Doctor Nicole Bru to preserve the memory of the creators of Laboratoires UPSA. From its headquarters in Geneva, it coordinates all the philanthropic actions of Dr. Nicole Bru. A servant of great causes, it provides talents and worthy initiatives with the resources they need to progress, in order to make lasting change. It offers long-term support and guidance to innovative projects that are clearly conceived and have a far-reaching vision. Sometimes, this support is what makes these projects possible in the first place.

The Fondation Bru is active in a great variety of fields: arts and heritage, education and research. Engaged, deeply humanist, pathbreaking, like the family of researchers and entrepreneurs it is named after, it places human beings at the heart of its actions.

www.fondation-bru.org

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