

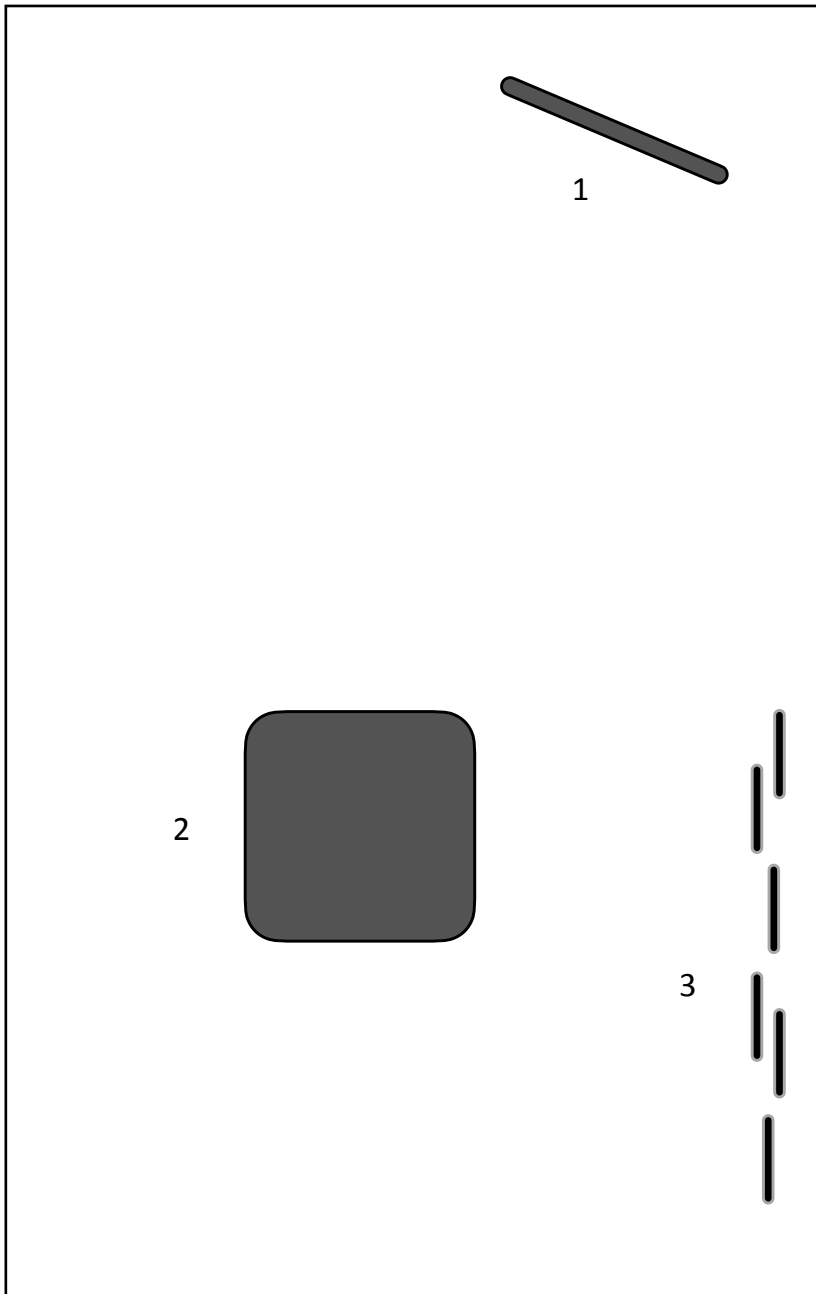
DIE SPANNUNG STEIGT

Text by Gabriela Gordillo

When expectations are there, tension is the potential difference between *now* and *then*; between the cause and the event; between our urgency and uncertainty. Tension sets a tone, and predisposes a mood for the upcoming: high expectations lay behind the words *looking forward*.

Tension rising in a scenario of boiling probabilities becomes an elongated threshold. Its liminality challenges the possibility of collapse, which illustrates in the phenomenon of feedback. In the words of Eliane Radigue, “(w)ith feedback, you have to walk this invisible line, this slight movement of the microphone (too close and everything blows up, too far and it dies out). With the right distance, the right gesture I was able to generate sustained gently vibrating and undulating sounds.” (1) In this setting, tension comes from the risk of things breaking or disappearing, two negations of their present state. However, she also mentions the range, in which is possible to creatively explore the in-between.

In the exhibition *Die Spannung Steigt* a structure, composed by a series of black bands that go from floor to ceiling, stands in the middle of the room. Integrated to the architecture of the space, the work *Spannung*, appears silent, static, yet porous. Tension is part of its translucid appearance but also its internal construct: the stretched bands, attached to opposite sides, can be individually pulled to create sound. This gesture allows the exploration of variations of sustain and release, that can diversify through collective participation. Soon, it reveals as an instrument that is possible to trespass, bend and tweak. In the opposite side of the room, the video installation *Dialog* shows the artist playing a similar interface. Acting as a mirror in a negative space, it holds the essence of the instrument, showing its principle from a different temporality.



In his work, Jens Vetter has been exploring the concept of tension through elasticity. In previous pieces, such as *Homo Restis* and *Netz 2.0*, these opposing forces converge in designs that resist the pressure applied by participants. Seemingly defined, the deceptive shapes are designed to be transformed, within the safe framework of play. The character of this works turns to be strongly reactive, sensitive and unpredictable.

Elasticity is defined as „*the capability of a strained body to recover its size and shape after deformation*“ (2). When the elastic limit is exceeded the material undergoes an irreversible change. The series of photos entitled *Risse* reveals materials through traces of decay, corruption, disintegration or physical stress. They depict the aftermath of an event or maintained conditions over time, the trespassed threshold that shifts one thing into another, by its perceivable difference. In this process, a pattern emerges while a past state erases. Addressing long temporalities, these images show tension in the material transformation, in an urban context.

Through his use of architectural space, participatory approach and collaborations surrounding the exhibition, Vetter's work invites us to consider a broader context for variations in tension. This wide-angle view brings us back to the choreography of everyday life, causality of events, and the emergent melodies of shape-bending. A playful approach to tension, brings us to the possibility of release, *Entspannung*. To breath, deflate, channel the excess of pressure that becomes paralyzing, becoming resilient towards the tensions that will keep rising.

(1) Radigue, Eliane, *Time is of no importance* in *Spectres, Composing Listening*, compiled by François Bonnet, Shelter-Press, 2019

(2) „*elasticity*“ at Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary. <https://www.merriam-webster.com> (retrieved March 2026)

- 1 **Dialog** Audio-reaktive Video Installation
- 2 **Spannung** Interaktive Klang Installation mit Echtzeit Klang-Synthese
- 3 **Risse** Foto Serie, Pigment Drucke auf Ilford Studio Matt Papier

DIE SPANNUNG STEIGT // Jens Vetter

Medienwerkstatt Wien
kuratiert von Magdalena Scheicher

Öffnungszeiten 10.3. - 31.3.2026 | Do-Sa 16h-20h

10.3. Eröffnung mit Performance von Oneka von Schrader

31.3. Finissage mit Sound-Performances von Dj Ford Escort und Jens Vetter

* mit Unterstützung der MA7 Stadt Wien, Kulturland Niederösterreich und des Bundesministerium für Wohnen, Kunst, Kultur und Sport