

## **Are YOU already protesting?**

In fact, behind the seemingly harmless name **waves, sound and space** of the workshop by Cyrill Lim and Katarina Antanasković, there is actually a double act of protest. Cyrill Lim protests for a different way of perceiving space. After all, space is everything that surrounds us. Even our planet exists within a space we call outer space. We navigate space using our senses. We see, which in most cases prevents us from literally walking into walls. We smell, which allows us to identify unpleasant places such as landfills, public toilets, or a mold-infested apartment. We touch, which helps us distinguish materials like metal, plastic, and wood and use them as efficiently as possible. We taste, which allows us, among other things, to differentiate various foods.

But how do we use our sense of hearing, and who has ever consciously paid attention to the acoustics of their everyday environment? How does sound affect space, and how does space affect sound? This is where Cyrill Lim began with the workshop participants, first demonstrating with simple examples how, with a little physics, sound in a space can almost turn into magic. The task in the workshop was then to find these very spots in Savamala and make the most of them.

Katarina Antanasković fights for a new definition of singing. As an advocate for all ordinary people, she campaigns for freedom to sing without coercion, sheet music, or lyrics. But since freedom is not the same as anarchy, some rules still need to be observed. In the workshop, participants worked on proper breathing techniques, correct pitch, and regular pauses—all with the goal of rediscovering their fundamental right to sing and their own voice. The result was a real liberation and people who, in the end, were ready to sing on the streets without inhibition, filled with joy and reluctant to go home. Moreover, this type of singing fosters a sense of community and literally invites others to join in. Singing is demystified, freed from stigma, and returned to its original form.

Both protests were combined into a protest march and an installation, where participants moved along a predetermined route to the acoustically interesting spots they had discovered, singing along the way. Here, it is Savamala itself and the voices that speak, not the participants. Curious locals and non-locals could also join the installation by bringing a radio tuned to **99.9 FM**, the frequency of **Radio Savamala**, which broadcast a pre-recorded track of the singing and thus enhanced the acoustic experience.

In this sense, the question already mentioned in the title of this text, asked by two tourists, was completely justified. The only remaining question is: **Are YOU already protesting?**

Text by Miljana Kostic, published on July 10, 2013, on the Goethe-Institut Belgrade blog in German and Serbian.