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***Myriad* (2015-17)**

\ 'mir-ē-əd\

n. 16C OE, Gk- (myrio)

Countless, boundless, infinite, untold;
an indefinitely great number of persons or things;
a myriad of ideas and possibilities.
innumerable: "*the myriad stars of a summer night*".

Originally designed and built for the 2015 Architecture Biennale in Shenzhen, the music box installation *Myriad* was then presented in Hong Kong and in 2016 Seoul, South Korea, on invitation of the Goethe Institute. In 2017, *Myriad* was shipped back to Europe and the installation was shown first at Schwetzingen SWR Festspiele and then at Sommerliche Musiktage Hitzacker.

Composed of 2,464 identical music box mechanisms, *Myriad*, although masked in manufactured uniformity, is a sonic representation of a paradoxical reality. Mass-produced in China, the components are visually indistinguishable, yet the turning of the music box key reveals an array of inner auditory diversity. Composed of fifty-four melodies which encompass a vastly broad spectrum of copyright-free melodies, the distinctly recognizable sounds of the music boxes exude an innate sense of familiarity, of childhood intimacy. The individual melodies create a collective polyphonic composition projecting surfaces of sound into the acoustic space. Heard alone the individual melodies are distinctly fragile and quiet: *en mass* the music boxes create a startling sonic image mirroring the quasi-brutalistic structure of the 19 metre-long installation. *Myriad* is powered through the interactive collaboration of visitors who compose a unique sonic image; a collective melody - generating a continually evolving cacophony.