

## ACUPUNCTURE OF EXHIBITION SPACE

Gallery project, 60 000 nails, processual sound, choreography, video performance

29.5.-3.7.2019 at FaVU Gallery, Brno, CZ

The project Exhibition Space Acupuncture took place between 29 May and 3 July 2019 in the Gallery of the Faculty of Fine Arts (FaVU) in Brno. This installation consisted of about 60,000 nails nailed to the walls of the 117 m<sup>2</sup> gallery, spread over three interconnected rooms, together with the mess from the plaster, which was a by-product of the installation process itself. A hidden subwoofer amplified street noise from the street directly next to the gallery. During the visiting hours, the rooms were completely dark, and the visitors could use only headlamps.

The installation of the exhibition took place over a period of five days, at which time only three actors worked on it.

Conceptually, the exhibition was based on the conditions and contexts of the gallery itself, as well as the ideology and history of exhibition spaces. During the 5-day performing installation, a fixed time plan of choreographed work in space was followed. While this work was going on, the whole gallery was blacked out, from the very first day of the installation until the end of the exhibition. The participants, during the installation, were also using just headlamps, which meant that while they were hammering the nails into the wall, they were able to focus only on one point. By doing so, they were not disturbed by the surroundings beyond the light point, but also, they were denied any thinking about the aesthetics of the nails composition within the work area.

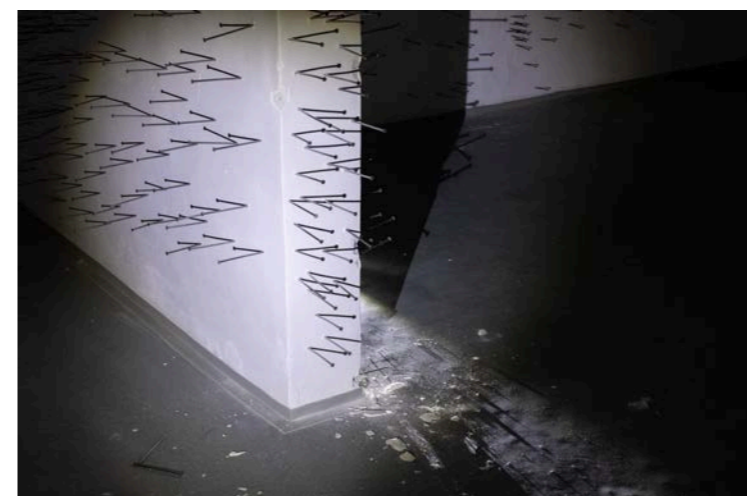
Working in this way made it difficult to tell different areas apart, as the walls and nails were identical, and then the work itself was monotonous repetitive action. Moving within the gallery had its own strict rules when alternating and moving from wall to wall. To accommodate this project, the space was divided into 60 blocks based on its own architecture. Before the works started, there was a draw of which space will be worked on by the participants and when, in order to ensure that the different blocks are worked on simultaneously, yet independently and without being disturbed, in several cycles.

Exhibition Space Acupuncture is a metaphor of a gallery space as an individual participant, an organism, and its stimulation. It works with the space as an accumulation unit in a network and with the unit network itself. The initial starting point of the project refers to the theory of the French sociologist Bruno Latour. He does not include only people, but also objects, organisations, and concepts to the actor-network theory (also known as ANT). ANT is based on the idea of a heterogeneous network of actors in material and semiotic relationships with each other. Latour tries to explain how (not so much why) the actors in this network have come together to act as a whole. The ANT argues that any actor, whether a person, object, organisation, or concept, is equally important to the network.

Similarly, acupuncture as a treatment method takes individuality into account as a comprehensive understanding of the state of the whole organism rather than its individual parts. Whatever happens in one part of the body affects another, much like the network relationship system, according to Latour. Each network is built from connecting points that make up the system and can be labelled as "acupuncture points".

When the exhibition ended and all the nails were removed, large pieces of plaster came off the walls. These uncovered remains of previous exhibitions as well as endless layers of paint, and previous partial repairs by disparate building materials, and not least the general overall decrepit state of this historic building. Finally, the gallery had to be completely restored and updated.

watch:  
[exhibition walkthrough - light on](#)  
[exhibition walkthrough - light off](#)  
[exhibition walkthrough - visitor preview of the installation process](#)





## ACUPUNCTURE OF EXHIBITION SPACE (SQUARED)

Installation, approx. 60000 nails, performance, electricity-connected subwoofer (no sound), 250m cable

3.3.2020 - 23.3.2020 Pragovka Gallery / Entry Prague

Project Exhibition Space Acupuncture2 (Squared), is an allegoric continuation of the exhibition that took place between 29 May and 3 July 2019 in the Gallery of the Faculty of Fine Arts (FaVU) in Brno.

[Watch video about installation process \(allegory\)](#)

