

## Glitch Music, 2023

*“Neutron star, oh neutron star  
What a lovely clock you are!  
When you stutter you give rise  
to invention and surprise  
Zebra finch, oh zebra finch  
Little feathered cubic-inch  
When you stutter you express  
love for neutron stars, I guess”*

The lines of this poem, commissioned by Marianne Vlaschits and written by Clemens J. Setz, are recited by BATTLE\*AX (Beatrix Curran) with precision and clarity straight into our ears. As we listen to the words through headphones, we also hear other noises chirping and stuttering in the background as well as another noise: the translated sound of pulsars. These rapidly rotating neutron stars emit radio radiation at regular intervals, which arrives on Earth as an audible signal. Their rhythmic sequence can resemble the beat of a clock or a metronome. But sometimes, we encounter irregular radiation profiles, which Vlaschits invites us to think of this stuttering, which is acoustically related to the choppy song of zebra finches, as a creative act: as a stutterer herself, the artist engages in a sensory dialogue about special variances of language. She translates the metaphorical beauty of this supposed biological malfunction into the sensual aesthetics of two enormous object-like paintings. Consisting of multiple parts on organically shaped canvases, they have a glowing hot ultramarine presence and seem to float in space with the help of scaffolding. The center of each is occupied by a spiraling brightly white shining gravity, while the radial arrangement of the surrounding panels simultaneously evokes the pulsations of outer space as well as wings, petals, and larynxes. Conceived as a binary pair, they illustrate the often-twofold manifestation of stuttering, which encompasses a physical blockage with bodily cramps as well as an involuntary repetition of letters, syllables, or words. A poetic structure emerges between the works, their reflections in the windows of the exhibition hall, and two circular mirrors attached to the wall, as well as the sound spectrum that likewise works with the creative energy of glitches. Just as no rare elements would be produced without the collision of two neutron stars, the installation Glitch Music is about the creative potential of deviating from the norm.

Andrea Kopranovic